

Proposal 3 Of 2018



What was Proposal 3 of 2018?

Proposal 3 of 2018, also known as Prop 18-3 or Promote the Vote, was a voting-rights ballot initiative that was on the ballot in the November 2018 general election. Prop 18-3 passed with more than 67% of the vote statewide, winning in 80 of Michigan's 83 counties. Its provisions were then added to Michigan's Constitution and went into effect in early 2019.

Who was behind the proposal?

A coalition of pro-voter organizations and advocates worked to draft the amendment, gather enough signatures to get it on the ballot, and campaign for its passage.

What did the proposal do?

Prop 18-3 made voting more secure and accessible for all eligible Michiganders. For example, it:

- **Eliminated the voter registration deadline.** Previously, to vote in an election, an individual was required to be registered to vote at least 30 days before that election. Now, thanks to Prop 18-3, eligible citizens can register to vote by mail up until 15 days before an election and to register to vote in person, with proof of residency, until polls close on Election Day.
- **Allowed all Michigan voters to vote by absentee ballot.** Previously, Michigan was one of a limited number of states that required applicants to swear that they met one of the short list of criteria in order to vote absentee, such as being 60 or older or in jail awaiting arraignment or trial. Now, all eligible Michigan voters can vote by absentee ballot without providing a reason.
- **Restored the right to vote straight ticket.** The option of voting straight ticket—that is, selecting one party box on the ballot in order to vote for all candidates of that party on the ballot—was previously eliminated by the Michigan legislature. Thanks to Prop 18-3, Michigan voters once again have the right to vote straight ticket.
- **Provided for automatic voter registration when applying for or renewing a Michigan driver's license or state ID card.** This automation streamlines the registration process for both voters and election officials and eliminates the possibility for errors that is inherent when voters manually complete a voter registration form and election officials manually enter that information into the Qualified Voter File.
- **Provided the right to vote a secret ballot.** Previously, Michigan's Constitution required the legislature to enact laws to preserve the right to a secret ballot. Thanks to Prop 18-3, that right is now codified in Michigan's Constitution.
- **Provided the right to an audit of statewide election results.** Previously, Michigan's Secretary of State could decide whether or not to conduct an audit. Now, thanks to Prop 18-3, the SOS has developed a standardized program to carry out an audit after each election in select precincts across every county in the state.