



STATE OF MICHIGAN
BUREAU OF ELECTIONS
LANSING

October 19, 2020

Addendum: Michigan Election Law Crimes

168.678 Board of election inspectors; authority.

<http://legislature.mi.gov/doc.aspx?mcl-168-678>

Each board of election inspectors shall possess full authority to maintain peace, regularity and order at its polling place, and to enforce obedience to their lawful commands during any primary or election and during the canvass of the votes after the poll is closed.

168.727 Challenge; duty of election inspector; indiscriminate challenge; penalty.

<http://legislature.mi.gov/doc.aspx?mcl-168-727>

(1) An election inspector shall challenge an applicant applying for a ballot if the inspector knows or has good reason to suspect that the applicant is not a qualified and registered elector of the precinct, or if a challenge appears in connection with the applicant's name in the registration book. A registered elector of the precinct present in the polling place may challenge the right of anyone attempting to vote if the elector knows or has good reason to suspect that individual is not a registered elector in that precinct. An election inspector or other qualified challenger may challenge the right of an individual attempting to vote who has previously applied for an absent voter ballot and who on election day is claiming to have never received the absent voter ballot or to have lost or destroyed the absent voter ballot.

(2) Upon a challenge being made under subsection (1), an election inspector shall immediately do all of the following:

- (a) Identify as provided in sections 745 and 746 a ballot voted by the challenged individual, if any.
- (b) Make a written report including all of the following information:
 - (i) All election disparities or infractions complained of or believed to have occurred.
 - (ii) The name of the individual making the challenge.
 - (iii) The time of the challenge.
 - (iv) The name, telephone number, and address of the challenged individual.
 - (v) Other information considered appropriate by the election inspector.
- (c) Retain the written report created under subdivision (b) and make it a part of the election record.
- (d) Inform a challenged elector of his or her rights under section 729.

A challenger shall not make a challenge indiscriminately and without good cause. A challenger shall not handle the poll books while observing election procedures or the ballots during the counting of the ballots. A challenger shall not interfere with or unduly delay the work of the election inspectors. An individual who challenges a qualified and registered elector of a voting precinct for the purpose of annoying or delaying voters is guilty of a misdemeanor.

168.733 Challengers; space in polling place; rights; space at counting board; expulsion for cause; protection; threat or intimidation.

(<http://legislature.mi.gov/doc.aspx?mcl-168-733>)

(1) The board of election inspectors shall provide space for the challengers within the polling place that enables the challengers to observe the election procedure and each person applying to vote. A challenger may do 1 or more of the following:

- (a) Under the scrutiny of an election inspector, inspect without handling the poll books as ballots are issued to electors and the electors' names being entered in the poll book.
- (b) Observe the manner in which the duties of the election inspectors are being performed.
- (c) Challenge the voting rights of a person who the challenger has good reason to believe is not a registered elector.
- (d) Challenge an election procedure that is not being properly performed.
- (e) Bring to an election inspector's attention any of the following:
 - (i) Improper handling of a ballot by an elector or election inspector.
 - (ii) A violation of a regulation made by the board of election inspectors pursuant to section 742.
 - (iii) Campaigning being performed by an election inspector or other person in violation of section 744.
 - (iv) A violation of election law or other prescribed election procedure.
- (f) Remain during the canvass of votes and until the statement of returns is duly signed and made.
- (g) Examine without handling each ballot as it is being counted.
- (h) Keep records of votes cast and other election procedures as the challenger desires.
- (i) Observe the recording of absent voter ballots on voting machines.

(2) The board of election inspectors shall provide space for each challenger, if any, at each counting board that enables the challengers to observe the counting of the ballots. A challenger at the counting board may do 1 or more of the activities allowed in subsection (1), as applicable.

(3) Any evidence of drinking of alcoholic beverages or disorderly conduct is sufficient cause for the expulsion of a challenger from the polling place or the counting board. The election inspectors and other election officials on duty shall protect a challenger in the discharge of his or her duties.

(4) A person shall not threaten or intimidate a challenger while performing an activity allowed under subsection (1). A challenger shall not threaten or intimidate an elector while the elector is entering the polling place, applying to vote, entering the voting compartment, voting, or leaving the polling place.

168.734 Challengers; preventing presence, penalty.

(<http://legislature.mi.gov/doc.aspx?mcl-168-734>)

Any officer or election board who shall prevent the presence of any such challenger as above provided, or shall refuse or fail to provide such challenger with conveniences for the performance of the duties expected of him, shall, upon conviction, be punished by a fine not exceeding \$1,000.00, or by imprisonment in the state prison not exceeding 2 years, or by both

such fine and imprisonment in the discretion of the court.

168.744 Prohibited acts; violation as misdemeanor.

(<http://legislature.mi.gov/doc.aspx?mcl-168-744>)

An election inspector or any other person in a polling room, in a compartment connected to a polling room, or within 100 feet from any entrance to a building in which a polling place is located shall not persuade or endeavor to persuade a person to vote for or against any particular candidate or party ticket or for or against any ballot question that is being voted on at the election. A person shall not place or distribute stickers, other than stickers provided by the election officials pursuant to law, in a polling room, in a compartment connected to a polling room, or within 100 feet from any entrance to a building in which a polling place is located.

(1) A person shall not solicit donations, gifts, contributions, purchase of tickets, or similar demands, or request or obtain signatures on petitions in a polling room, in a compartment connected to a polling room, or within 100 feet from any entrance to a building in which a polling place is located.

(2) On election day, a person shall not post, display, or distribute in a polling place, in any hallway used by voters to enter or exit a polling place, or within 100 feet of an entrance to a building in which a polling place is located any material that directly or indirectly makes reference to an election, a candidate, or a ballot question. Except as otherwise provided in section 744a, this subsection does not apply to official material that is required by law to be posted, displayed, or distributed in a polling place on election day.

(3) A person who violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor.

168.744a Appearance of name of elected or appointed official in polling place or room prohibited; violation; fine.

(<http://legislature.mi.gov/doc.aspx?mcl-168-744a>)

(1) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the name of an elected or appointed official of this state or a political subdivision of this state shall not appear on any material that is temporarily posted, displayed, or distributed in a polling place or polling room on election day.

(2) A person who violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not more than \$100.00 for a first offense and is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not more than \$250.00 for a second or subsequent offense.

168.931 Prohibited conduct; violation as misdemeanor; “valuable consideration” defined.

(<http://legislature.mi.gov/doc.aspx?mcl-168-931>)

(1) A person who violates 1 or more of the following subdivisions is guilty of a misdemeanor:

(a) A person shall not, either directly or indirectly, give, lend, or promise valuable consideration, to or for any person, as an inducement to influence the manner of voting by a person relative to a candidate or ballot question, or as a reward for refraining from voting.

(b) A person shall not, either before, on, or after an election, for the person's own benefit or on behalf of any other person, receive, agree, or contract for valuable consideration for 1 or more of the following:

(i) Voting or agreeing to vote, or inducing or attempting to induce another to vote, at an election.

- (ii) Refraining or agreeing to refrain, or inducing or attempting to induce another to refrain, from voting at an election.
 - (iii) Doing anything prohibited by this act.
 - (iv) Both distributing absent voter ballot applications to voters and receiving signed applications from voters for delivery to the appropriate clerk or assistant of the clerk. This subparagraph does not apply to an authorized election official.
- (c) A person shall not solicit any valuable consideration from a candidate for nomination for, or election to, an office described in this act. This subdivision does not apply to requests for contributions of money by or to an authorized representative of the political party committee of the organization to which the candidate belongs. This subdivision does not apply to a regular business transaction between a candidate and any other person that is not intended for, or connected with, the securing of votes or the influencing of voters in connection with the nomination or election.
- (d) A person shall not, either directly or indirectly, discharge or threaten to discharge an employee of the person for the purpose of influencing the employee's vote at an election.
- (e) A priest, pastor, curate, or other officer of a religious society shall not for the purpose of influencing a voter at an election, impose or threaten to impose upon the voter a penalty of excommunication, dismissal, or expulsion, or command or advise the voter, under pain of religious disapproval.
- (f) A person shall not hire a motor vehicle or other conveyance or cause the same to be done, for conveying voters, other than voters physically unable to walk, to an election. [Note: this prohibition is not enforceable under a September 2020 court order. Therefore, this conduct is not prohibited.]***
- (g) In a city, township, village, or school district that has a board of election commissioners authorized to appoint inspectors of election, an inspector of election, a clerk, or other election official who accepts an appointment as an inspector of election shall not fail to report at the polling place designated on election morning at the time specified by the board of election commissioners, unless excused as provided in this subdivision. A person who violates this subdivision is guilty of a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of not more than \$10.00 or imprisonment for not more than 10 days, or both. An inspector of election, clerk, or other election official who accepts an appointment as an inspector of election is excused for failing to report at the polling place on election day and is not subject to a fine or imprisonment under this subdivision if 1 or more of the following requirements are met:
- (i) The inspector of election, clerk, or other election official notifies the board of election commissioners or other officers in charge of elections of his or her inability to serve at the time and place specified, 3 days or more before the election.
 - (ii) The inspector of election, clerk, or other election official is excused from duty by the board of election commissioners or other officers in charge of elections for cause shown.
- (h) A person shall not willfully fail to perform a duty imposed upon that person by this act, or disobey a lawful instruction or order of the secretary of state as chief state election officer or of a board of county election commissioners, board of city election commissioners, or board of inspectors of election.
- (i) A delegate or member of a convention shall not solicit a candidate for nomination before the convention for money, reward, position, place, preferment, or other valuable consideration in return for support by the delegate or member in the convention. A candidate or other person shall not promise or give to a delegate money, reward, position, place, preferment, or other valuable consideration in return for support by or vote of the delegate in the convention.
- (j) A person elected to the office of delegate to a convention shall not accept or receive any money or other valuable consideration for his or her vote as a delegate.
- (k) A person shall not, while the polls are open on an election day, solicit votes in a

polling place or within 100 feet from an entrance to the building in which a polling place is located.

(l) A person shall not keep a room or building for the purpose, in whole or in part, of recording or registering bets or wagers, or of selling pools upon the result of a political nomination, appointment, or election. A person shall not wager property, money, or thing of value, or be the custodian of money, property, or thing of value, staked, wagered, or pledged upon the result of a political nomination, appointment, or election. A person shall not participate in a meeting or a portion of a meeting of more than 2 persons, other than the person's immediate family, at which an absent voter ballot is voted.

(m) A person, other than an authorized election official, shall not, either directly or indirectly, give, lend, or promise any valuable consideration to or for a person to induce that person to both distribute absent voter ballot applications to voters and receive signed absent voter ballot applications from voters for delivery to the appropriate clerk.

(2) A person who violates a provision of this act for which a penalty is not otherwise specifically provided in this act, is guilty of a misdemeanor.

(3) A person or a person's agent who knowingly makes, publishes, disseminates, circulates, or places before the public, or knowingly causes directly or indirectly to be made, published, disseminated, circulated, or placed before the public, in this state, either orally or in writing, an assertion, representation, or statement of fact concerning a candidate for public office at an election in this state, that is false, deceptive, scurrilous, or malicious, without the true name of the author being subscribed to the assertion, representation, or statement if written, or announced if unwritten, is guilty of a misdemeanor.

(4) As used in this section, "valuable consideration" includes, but is not limited to, money, property, a gift, a prize or chance for a prize, a fee, a loan, an office, a position, an appointment, or employment.

168.931a Appearance of name of elected or appointed official on ballot-related material; prohibition; violation as misdemeanor; penalty.

(<http://legislature.mi.gov/doc.aspx?mcl-168-931a>)

(1) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, and except as otherwise provided in subsection (2), the name of an elected or appointed official of this state or a political subdivision of this state shall not appear on any ballot-related material that is provided to an elector. As used in this section, "ballot-related material" includes any of the following:

- (a) Any material provided to an elector with an absent voter ballot.
- (b) Absent voter ballot instructions.
- (c) An envelope used to mail to an elector an absent voter ballot or any other ballot material.
- (d) An absent voter ballot return envelope.

(2) Any ballot-related material printed or prepared before the effective date of the amendatory act that added this section that contains the name of an elected or appointed official of this state or a political subdivision of this state may be used if the elected or appointed official whose name appears on the ballot-related materials is not a candidate at the election in which those ballot-related materials are being used.

(3) A person who violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not more than \$100.00 for a first offense and is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not more than \$250.00 for a second or subsequent offense.

168.932 Prohibited conduct; violation as felony.

(<http://legislature.mi.gov/doc.aspx?mcl-168-932>)

A person who violates 1 or more of the following subdivisions is guilty of a felony:

(a) A person shall not attempt, by means of bribery, menace, or other corrupt means or device, either directly or indirectly, to influence an elector in giving his or her vote, or to deter the elector from, or interrupt the elector in giving his or her vote at any election held in this state.

(b) A person not duly authorized by law shall not, during the progress of any election or after the closing of the polls and before the final results of the election have been ascertained, break open or violate the seals or locks of any ballot box or voting machine used or in use at that election. A person shall not willfully damage or destroy any ballot box or voting machine. A person shall not obtain undue possession of that ballot box or voting machine. A person shall not conceal, withhold, or destroy a ballot box or voting machine, or fraudulently or forcibly add to or diminish the number of ballots legally deposited in the box or the totals on the voting machine. A person shall not aid or abet in any act prohibited by this subdivision.

(c) An inspector of election, clerk, or other officer or person having custody of any record, election list of voters, affidavit, return, statement of votes, certificates, poll book, or of any paper, document, or vote of any description, which pursuant to this act is directed to be made, filed, or preserved, shall not willfully destroy, mutilate, deface, falsify, or fraudulently remove or secrete any or all of those items, in whole or in part, or fraudulently make any entry, erasure, or alteration on any or all of those items, or permit any other person to do so.

(d) A person shall neither disclose to any other person the name of any candidate voted for by any elector, the contents of whose ballots were seen by the person, nor in any manner obstruct or attempt to obstruct any elector in the exercise of his or her duties as an elector under this act.

(e) A person who is not involved in the counting of ballots as provided by law and who has possession of an absent voter ballot mailed or delivered to another person shall not do any of the following:

- (i) Open the envelope containing the ballot.
- (ii) Make any marking on the ballot.
- (iii) Alter the ballot in any way.
- (iv) Substitute another ballot for the absent voter ballot that the person possesses.

(f) A person other than an absent voter; a person whose job it is to handle mail before, during, or after being transported by a public postal service, express mail service, parcel post service, or common carrier, but only during the normal course of his or her employment; a clerk or assistant of the clerk; a member of the immediate family of the absent voter including father-in-law, mother-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, grandparent, or grandchild; or a person residing in the absent voter's household shall not do any of the following:

- (i) Possess an absent voter ballot mailed or delivered to another person, regardless of whether the ballot has been voted.
- (ii) Return, solicit to return, or agree to return an absent voter ballot to the clerk of a city, township, village, or school district.

(g) A person who assists an absent voter who is disabled or otherwise unable to mark the ballot shall only render his or her assistance by showing the absent voter how to vote the ballot as the absent voter desires or by marking the ballot as directed by the absent voter. A person

who assists an absent voter who is disabled or otherwise unable to mark the ballot shall not suggest or in any manner attempt to influence the absent voter on how he or she should vote or allow any other person to do so.

(h) A person present while an absent voter is voting an absent voter ballot shall not suggest or in any manner attempt to influence the absent voter on how he or she should vote.

(i) A person shall not plan or organize a meeting at which absent voter ballots are to be voted.

168.932a Violations as felony; penalty.

(<http://legislature.mi.gov/doc.aspx?mcl-168-932a>)

A person who does any of the following is guilty of a felony punishable by imprisonment for not more than 4 years or a fine of not more than \$2,000.00, or both:

(a) A person shall not, at an election, falsely impersonate another person, or vote or attempt to vote under the name of another person, or induce or attempt to induce a person to impersonate another person or to vote or attempt to vote under the name of another person.

(b) A person shall not assume a false or fictitious name to vote or to offer to vote by that name, enter or cause to be entered upon the registration book in a voting precinct a false or fictitious name, or induce or attempt to induce another person to assume a false or fictitious name in order to vote, by that name, vote, or offer to or enter or cause to be entered upon the registration book of a voting precinct, a false or fictitious name.

(c) A person who is not a qualified and registered elector shall not willfully offer to vote or attempt to vote at an election held in this state. A person shall not aid or counsel a person who is not a qualified and registered elector to vote or offer to vote at the place where the vote is given during an election.

(d) A qualified and registered elector shall not offer to vote or attempt to vote in a voting precinct in which the elector does not reside, except as otherwise provided in this act. A person shall not procure, aid, or counsel another person to go or come into a township, ward, or voting precinct for the purpose of voting at an election, knowing that the person is not qualified or registered to vote in that township, ward, or voting precinct.

(e) A person shall not offer to vote or attempt to vote more than once at the same election either in the same or in another voting precinct. A person shall not give 2 or more votes folded together.

168.932c Registering individuals; compensation prohibited; violation as felony; penalty.

(<http://legislature.mi.gov/doc.aspx?mcl-168-932c>)

(1) A person shall not provide compensation to another person for registering individuals to vote that is based upon any of the following:

(a) The total number of individuals a person registers to vote.

(b) The total number of individuals a person registers to vote in a particular political party.

(2) A person who violates this section is guilty of a felony punishable by imprisonment for not more than 5 years or a fine of not more than \$1,000.00, or both.

168.932e Misrepresentation as election official; violation as felony.

(<http://legislature.mi.gov/doc.aspx?mcl-168-932e>)

(1) A person shall not intentionally misrepresent by word or act in a polling place on election day that he or she is an election official if that person is not an election official.

(2) A person who violates this section is guilty of a felony.

168.933 Perjury; definition.

(<http://legislature.mi.gov/doc.aspx?mcl-168-933>)

A person who makes a false affidavit or swears falsely while under oath under section 848 or for the purpose of securing registration, for the purpose of voting at an election, or for the purpose of qualifying as a candidate for elective office under section 558 is guilty of perjury.

168.934 Misdemeanor; penalty.

(<http://legislature.mi.gov/doc.aspx?mcl-168-934>)

Any person who shall be found guilty of a misdemeanor under the provisions of this act shall, unless herein otherwise provided, be punished by a fine of not exceeding \$500.00, or by imprisonment in the county jail for a term not exceeding 90 days, or both such fine and imprisonment in the discretion of the court.

168.935 Felony; penalty.

(<http://legislature.mi.gov/doc.aspx?mcl-168-935>)

Any person found guilty of a felony under the provisions of this act shall, unless herein otherwise provided, be punished by a fine not exceeding \$1,000.00, or by imprisonment in the state prison for a term not exceeding 5 years, or by both such fine and imprisonment in the discretion of the court.

168.940 Prosecuting attorney; duty to prosecute.

(<http://legislature.mi.gov/doc.aspx?mcl-168-940>)

It is hereby made the duty of every prosecuting attorney, whenever he shall receive credible information that any such offense has been committed, to cause the same to be prosecuted.

168.941 Peace officers; duty to institute proceedings.

(<http://legislature.mi.gov/doc.aspx?mcl-168-941>)

It is hereby made the duty of any police, sheriff or other peace officer, present and having knowledge of any violation of any of the provisions of this act, to forthwith institute criminal proceedings for the punishment of such offender.