

From the Office of Marvin Besteman, Township Clerk.....

Absentee voter ballots are available for all elections. They provide voters with a convenient method for casting a ballot when they are unable to attend the polls on Election Day.

As a registered voter, you may obtain an absentee voter ballot if you are:

- *Age 60 years old or older*
- *Unable to vote without assistance at the polls*
- *Expecting to be out of town on election day*
- *In jail awaiting arraignment or trial*
- *Unable to attend the polls due to religious reasons*
- *Appointed to work as an election inspector in a precinct outside of your precinct of residence*

A person who registers to vote by mail must vote in person in the first election in which he or she participates. The restriction does not apply to overseas voters, voters who are disabled, or voters who are 60 years of age or older.

Requesting an Absentee Voter Ballot

Your request for an absentee ballot must be in writing and submitted to the Office of the Clerk, 4884 West Curtis Street, Kincheloe, MI 49788.

Once we receive your request, your signature on the request will be checked against your voter registration record. You must be a registered voter to receive an absentee ballot. Absentee voter ballots may be issued to you at your home address or any address outside your township residence.

After receiving your absentee voter ballot, you have until 8 pm on election day to complete the ballot and return it to the clerk's office. Your ballot will not be counted unless your signature is on the return envelope and matches your signature on file. If you received assistance voting the ballot, then the signature of the person who helped you must also be on the return envelope. Only you, a family member, or person residing in your household, a mail carrier, or election official is authorized to deliver your signed absentee voter ballot to the clerk's office. Once received by the clerk's office the ballot will be signed in and placed in a locked container by the clerk's department. The morning of the election all absentee ballots received will be turned over to the election inspector chair with all associated documentation and will be verified by the election inspectors. Election inspectors process all absentee ballots according their certification with the utmost privacy for the absent voter.

If an emergency, such as a sudden illness or family death prevents you from reaching the polls on election day, you may request an emergency absentee voter ballot. Requests for an emergency ballot must be submitted after the deadline for regular absentee voter ballots has passed but before 4 pm on Election Day, November 6, 2012.

Voting is one of the most cherished and fundamental rights in our country. If you are eligible to obtain an absentee voter ballot and cannot attend the polls on Election Day, use of the absentee voter ballot is strongly encouraged.

As always if you have any questions regarding the voting process please contact my office at 906-495-5381 ext. 102 or e-mail kclerk@kinross.net

Kinross Charter Township