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**PLEASE READ THIS IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

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**Why returning your ballot might be different for Election Day November 5, 2019**

The Universal Postal Union (UPU) is a worldwide body that establishes and agrees on international postal rates. The U.S. has announced it may pull out of UPU. If we do, there will be no agreement for mail to be delivered to or from our country to any other country after October 16, 2019. We'll have to negotiate with 191 countries on postal rates.

Although the U.S. Postal Service and others have been working on contingency plans, those plans are unlikely to be in place in time for military and overseas citizen (UOCAVA) voters to return their ballots in time for the November 2019 election.

**How to return your ballot before October 16**

You may have these options for returning your marked ballot:

- International postal mail, if it is generally reliable where you are. Make sure you do it far enough in advance that your ballot will leave the country in time to make it to the U.S. by October 16.
- Military Post Offices
- Fax (231) 547-3617 or email [clerk@charlevoixmi.gov](mailto:clerk@charlevoixmi.gov) (Followed by your paper ballot through postal mail or delivery service)

**How to return your ballot after October 16**

If the U.S. pulls out of the Universal Postal Union and the withdrawal goes into effect on October 16, you won't be able to mail your ballot back to your home jurisdiction. Here are some options to check:

- APO and FPO mail for members of the military on bases will still operate. Check with your installation for recommended dates to make sure your ballot gets back to the U.S. in time.
- There may be agreements in place for mail to flow between the U.S. and some countries (check at [FVAP.gov/upu](http://FVAP.gov/upu))
- Fax (231) 547-3617 or email [clerk@charlevoixmi.gov](mailto:clerk@charlevoixmi.gov) (Followed by your paper ballot through a delivery service)
- Private carriers may be available, but they're expensive. Discounts may be available. See options at [FVAP.gov/upu](http://FVAP.gov/upu).
- Diplomatic pouches at embassies and consulates (check your embassy/consulate website for additional information or see [USEmbassy.gov](http://USEmbassy.gov) to find your closest one)

Go to [FVAP.gov/upu](http://FVAP.gov/upu) to find out if you can send your ballot back and get more information and options for returning your ballot in time to be counted for November 5.

Go to the City's website <http://mi-charlevoix.civicplus.com/299/Elections-Voting> for information about what's on the ballot and other information about voting and elections.