



Lawrence Kestenbaum, Clerk/Register of Deeds

Larry's Column

The Help America Vote Act imposes a tight deadline on us to provide special equipment for disabled voters. Starting this year, every polling place must have a device to make it possible for people who have difficulties with a traditional ballot to cast a secret ballot.

Secretary of State Terri Lynn Land came to Ann Arbor to tell us about this requirement several years ago. Her goal was to have a machine that could accommodate a wide variety of disabilities, yet produce a ballot indistinguishable from others.

Currently the state Bureau of Elections is considering proposals from various companies. They are expected to choose one solution and purchase (with federal and state money) enough machines to equip every polling place in Michigan.

Election officials around the state are wary of additional maintenance, programming, and supplies that the new ADA machine could bring.

Recently, I was present for a very sharp exchange between the State Bureau of Elections and a roomful of county clerks.

Some clerks are advocating for a role in the decision making process, but I'm not sure we want that. I doubt that anyone will be impressed with the cost-effectiveness of the new machine, whatever it is. Nor do I think Congress will be willing to roll back this requirement. Although we have made our preference known, I believe that at this point our best hope is that the state finds us a workable solution.

State Election News

Important Updates From the State Bureau: See attached memorandum "[Feb06-State.pdf](#)"

[More State Updates: Election News, Issue No. 29](#)

Volume 1, Issue 2, 02/07/06



Dates To Remember...

February

- 07 - Affidavit of Identity and Nominating Petition Deadline For May Election
- 20 - President's Day, County Offices Closed
- 28 - Election Day

March

- 02 - 10AM-1PM Canvassers certify ballot containers at Scio Township Hall
- 03 - Deadline for ballot wording to appear on May election ballot
- 03 - Deadline to consolidate Precincts
- 27 - Close of Registration Notice due

April

- 03 - Last Day to Register for May Election
- 12 - AV ballots must be made available
- 25 - Notice of Election due



From Our Office

In preparation for upcoming elections, the County Clerk's Office has put together schedules for election inspector training, campaign finance training and dates for ballot container certification. We have also begun working on the notices to be published for the May 2, 2006 election. Information on these topics as well as other useful information regarding preparation for upcoming elections can be found by downloading the attachment to this newsletter, "[Feb06-County.pdf](#)".

In addition, as we intend these newsletters to be a resource for you both now and in the future, we have created an area on the Web archiving past issues of "The Lamp" in PDF format. That area is accessible by going to:

http://www.ewashtenaw.org/government/clerk_register/elections/el_newsletter.html



STATE OF MICHIGAN
TERRI LYNN LAND, SECRETARY OF STATE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
LANSING

MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 25, 2006
TO: County Clerks
FROM: Michigan Department of State, Bureau of Elections
SUBJECT: CANDIDATE FILING DEADLINES

Revised Affidavit of Identity form to be introduced: Michigan election law requires any candidate filing an Affidavit of Identity to state on the form that at the date the affidavit was executed, "all statements, reports, late filing fees and fines required of the candidate or any candidate committee organized to support the candidate's election under the Michigan Campaign Finance Act ... have been filed or paid." A new revision of the Affidavit of Identity form which incorporates the required campaign finance compliance language in the attestation which must be signed by the candidate at the bottom of the form is being prepared for implementation this year. With the revision, the campaign finance compliance statement check off box which appears on the current version of the form will be eliminated. The revised version of the form will be available through commercial suppliers in the near future. In the meantime, the current version of the form can be used.

County and township vacancies: Vacancies occurring in county or township offices on or before May 8, 2006 must be elected for the remainder of the term this year. A county clerk is *not* authorized to accept filings from candidates who seek township offices; a candidate who seeks a township office *must* file with his or her township clerk's office. Filings for township offices which are erroneously accepted on the county level are invalid.

Precinct Delegate Filings

A person who wishes to seek a precinct delegate position must file two Affidavit of Identity forms with the clerk of his or her county, city or township of residence. If the filing is received on the local level, one copy of the form must be forwarded to the county clerk. Petition signatures are *not* required.

To facilitate the precinct delegate candidate filing process, an Affidavit of Identity designed exclusively for use by precinct delegate candidates has been developed by the Department of State's Bureau of Elections. The form is available through commercial vendors. It merits note that the availability of the precinct delegate Affidavit of Identity form does *not* preclude a precinct delegate candidate from filing with the *standard* Affidavit of Identity form.

Precinct delegate candidates are *not* required to file disclosure forms under Michigan's Campaign Finance Act. Consequently, precinct delegate candidates are *not* required to attest to a campaign finance compliance statement.

A newsletter outlining the procedures provided under Michigan election law for the election of precinct delegates was recently forwarded to you through this office (*Election News*, Issue No. 29, issued January 19, 2006).

Important Filing Dates and Deadlines

- By 5:00 p.m.,
March 27** Incumbent Probate Court Judges file Affidavit of Candidacy and Affidavit of Identity for the August primary. Withdrawal deadline elapses at 5:00 p.m. on March 30.
- By 4:00 p.m.,
May 2** Candidates who seek the office of Probate Court judge file nominating petitions, Affidavit of Identity and Affidavit of Constitutional Qualification for the August primary. Withdrawal deadline elapses at 4:00 p.m. on May 5.
- By 4:00 p.m.,
May 16** Partisan and nonpartisan candidates (other than judicial candidates) file nominating petitions and Affidavit of Identity for the August primary. (A partisan candidate who seeks a county office, the office of State Senator or the office of State Representative may file a \$100.00 filing fee in lieu of a petition.) Withdrawal deadline elapses at 4:00 p.m. on May 19.
- By 4:00 p.m.,
May 16** Candidates for county convention delegate (precinct delegate) file an Affidavit of Identity with the clerk of the county, city or township in which candidate resides for the August primary. Withdrawal deadline elapses at 4:00 p.m. on May 19 (Withdrawals must be submitted to county clerk.)
- By 4:00 p.m.,
July 20** Candidates without political party affiliation file qualifying petitions for the November general election. (A filing fee option is not available.) Withdrawal deadline elapses at 4:00 p.m. on July 24.
- By 4:00 p.m.,
August 4** Write-in candidates file Declaration of Intent forms for August primary. (As an alternative, candidates for precinct delegate may file form with appropriate precinct board on August 8 before the close of the polls.) Note: There are no provisions of law which permit write-in candidates seeking precinct delegate positions to file a Declaration of Intent on the county level.
- By 4:00 p.m.,
November 3** Write-in candidates file Declaration of Intent forms for November general election.



LAWRENCE KESTENBAUM CLERK/REGISTER
ELECTIONS MEMORANDUM

TO: LOCAL CITY AND TOWNSHIP CLERKS
FROM: WASHTENAW COUNTY ELECTIONS OFFICE
SUBJECT: ELECTION INFORMATION
DATE: 2/7/2006

May 2, 2006 Election

Due to the fact that the May 2, 2006 election will cover school board elections as well as the countywide 800 Mhz proposal, all election related duties are the responsibility of the local clerk. The County Clerk's Office will continue to program and print the ballots, train election inspectors and provide all notices, with the exception for your accuracy test notice. We will forward notices to the local clerks for approval and then will have them published in each jurisdiction's paper of record. If you have any questions regarding upcoming notices, please contact the Elections Division at 734-222-6730.

Consolidation of precincts for May 2, 2006 election

In order to consolidate precincts for the May 2, 2006 election a resolution passed by your election commission must be submitted to the County Clerks office by March 3, 2006.

Proposal Deadline

Ballot wording of proposals qualified to appear on the May 2, 2006 ballot need to be certified to the County Clerk's Office by March 3, 2006.

Officials appointed prior to May 8, 2006

Vacancies occurring in county or local offices on or before May 8, 2006 must be elected for the remainder of the term this year. The filing deadline for the August Primary is May 16, 2006, 4:00 p.m. If you have an officeholder in your jurisdiction that was appointed before May 8, 2006, please remind them that they will need to file as a candidate for the August Primary Election if they would like to retain their office.

Ballot Container Certification Expires in May

All ballot containers to be used in elections after May 2006 will need to be re-certified. The County Board of Canvassers will be certifying containers for the local clerks on March 2, 2006 at the Scio Township Hall, from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. They will also be available to certify containers on May 4, 2006 from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. during the May election canvass held at the Washtenaw County Clerk/Register's Office, 200 N. Main St. If you are unable to bring your containers at either of these times, please contact the Elections Office to make special arrangements.