



Larry's Column

Welcome to *The Lamp*, a regular bulletin of the latest notices and information from the County Clerk/Register's Office.

An oil lamp with two flames is the central feature of our Washtenaw County logo. Though traditionally this is a lamp of learning, symbolizing our two universities, it is surely open to other interpretations.

Perhaps it is a lamp of leadership, with our elected officials lighting the way. Or it's a lamp of knowledge: just as one oil reservoir feeds many lights, so each of us -- local and county clerks, city and township clerks, villages and schools and libraries -- all draw on the same pool of information and skills.

Together, we faced and overcame a lot of challenges this past year. The election consolidation law thrust new and old clerks alike into new duties and unaccustomed roles. In 2005 the County and Local Clerks worked together to administer school elections, provide joint publications and implement the election reimbursement process.

2006 will certainly provide us with a new set of challenges. We look forward to working with you in the upcoming year and hope that this newsletter will serve to increase communication from our office to yours.

State Election News

Several proposals will be on the November 2006 ballot with others pending approval. Click the link below to learn more.

[2006 Statewide Ballot Proposal Status](#)

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Dates To Remember...

January

- 10 - Deadline For New Precinct Boundaries
- 12 - Clerk Accreditation Training
- 16 - Martin Luther King Day, County Offices Closed
- 20 - Clerk Accreditation Training
- 31 - Annual Campaign Finance Report Due

February

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

From Our Office



2006 promises to be an eventful year for elections and election related issues. February 28th we hold a recall in Augusta and two portions of school elections in Salem and Ypsilanti Townships. May 2nd is the usual school election but with a twist, a county-wide millage. The August 8th Primary and the November 7th General host the normal surplus of candidates and a slight twist of their own with as many as 9 [statewide proposals](#) possibly making it to the ballot. Add to that the HAVA requirements and rapid [timeline](#) for implementation of the Accessible Voting Systems in every precinct and you've got one busy year.

It's expected that these new voting systems will allow individuals with disabilities to vote independently and privately, as required under the Help America Vote Act. The possibility of a new machine raises several important questions; how will the programming of two separate machines in every precinct work? How different will Election Day be? Does this mean double the number of accuracy tests? Needless to say none of these questions have been answered yet. However, the goal of the State is to have a machine that reads our Accuvote ballots, marks it but does not tally it and returns it to the voter to be tallied in our regular Accuvote machines.

Although many questions persist you can be assured that we will monitor developments and pass on any information that is made available. If you have additional questions, comments or concerns regarding these new machines, let us know. It's important that we share our views with the State prior to a final decision being made. To learn more visit the [Accessible Voting System](#) page.

The Lamp is sent the first week of each month by the Washtenaw County Clerk/Register's Office. Please direct any questions or comments regarding the newsletter to yankeem@washtenaw.org.