



Larry's Column

Election consolidation makes it possible to combine different kinds of elections. We'll get some experience with this on May 2, when the countywide emergency radio millage will share the ballot with school board races.

The county proposal makes this a regular election, so we won't be using the school election rules and arrangements. Municipal clerks will run the election, regardless of "opting in" or "opting out" choices made in the school election coordination agreements. Additionally, the schools will not be reimbursing our full costs. On the other hand, we did not have the extra cost of a standalone November 2005 election.

Washtenaw County voters who normally vote outside the county for school elections will vote in-county this time. They will need notification postcards to let them know, and a separate ballot style with their school district's candidates and the county proposal. Out-of-county voters who come to our polling places for school elections will also need a separate ballot style, without the county proposal. Precinct workers will be responsible for making sure that each voter gets the correct ballot.

Combined elections save time and resources for the community overall, so we will be seeing more like this in the future.

State Election News

The State has recently released new QVF software (version 2.18) that all QVF server and client computers should be using. In conjunction, the Bureau of Elections will be offering training across the State on the QVF software. See the attached document ([Mar06-State.PDF](#)) for more information.

[More State News: Election News, Issue #30](#)

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Dates To Remember...

March

- 22 - Municipal and Township Clerks Association Meeting
- 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

Legislative Updates

- [HB 4228](#) - AV Lists
- [HB 5214](#) - Possession of an AV ballot
- [HB 5659](#) - Cancellation of voter registrations
- [HB 5813](#) - Village elections

From Our Office



In preparation for the upcoming elections the Clerk's Office wanted to remind everyone that we will be certifying ballot containers again at the May 4, 2006 Canvass of Elections. The canvass will be held at the Washtenaw County Clerk's Office and will begin at 10:00 a.m. The Board of Canvassers will be able to certify containers anytime between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. We will also be preparing Last Day to Register Notices for the May elections during the first week of March, and will send drafts of the notices to each local clerk for review before we post them in your papers of record. The last item in preparation for the upcoming

elections is election inspector training. We will begin scheduling those trainings for early May, and they will continue throughout the summer.

On a separate note, the Qualified Voter File software is expected to be upgraded in all local and county offices by the end of June. In the meantime, it is expected that some jurisdictions will have issues performing different operations. The helpdesk is aware of this and has assured us that these issues will be settled once the last upgrade is completed.

"News You Can Use"

Feb. 27, 2006

(Issue 209)

Help Desk Support: The Bureau of Elections and the QVF Help Desk will be open from 7:00 am - 8:30 pm on Election Day, February 28, 2006.

To help us better serve you, please direct your calls accordingly:

**Voter Registration and QVF Software Questions:
1-800-310-5697**

Election Law, Tabulator and Other Election Questions: 1-800-292-5973

March QVF Software Training - As you are aware, several new versions of the QVF software were released over the last few weeks. At this point, all QVF servers and client computers should be operating with **version 2.18**. The new software version contains a substantial number of enhancements that are specifically designed to facilitate the new consolidated elections calendar and the various associated tasks that must be completed for each election. The new software also contains certain changes that are needed to prepare for the import of digitized signatures from the driver file, and to prepare for the release of a new, totally web based, QVF product that will be of particular interest to Michigan's smaller jurisdictions that do not have direct access to the QVF.

In light of these changes, we are pleased to announce that beginning on March 6, 2006 the Bureau of Elections will offer QVF software training at fifteen regional locations throughout the State. Unless indicated otherwise, each session is scheduled to begin at 9:00 a.m. and conclude at 4:00 p.m. A complete listing of dates, alternate times and locations is provided below.

Please feel free to attend at a location that is most convenient to your schedule. While the Bureau of Elections is not requesting an RSVP, it should be noted that some of the host facilities are requesting an RSVP to assist them in planning for seating and refreshments. These training sessions are recommended for all election officials that are responsible for maintaining the QVF for their jurisdiction, including jurisdictions that currently access the QVF via PC Anywhere.

QVF Training Schedule

(All training sessions will be from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. unless otherwise noted.)

March 6	Delta Twp Hall 7710 W. Saginaw Hwy Lansing, MI 48917 (517) 323-8500 RSVP: truiz@deltami.gov
March 7	Livingston County Oceola Township Hall 1577 N. Latson Howell, MI (517) 546-3259 RSVP: Oceola.clerksdept@comcast.net
March 8	Macomb County Sterling Heights - Freedom Hill 15000 Metro Parkway Sterling Heights, MI Mike (586) 469-5209
March 9	Muskegon County Human Resources Bldg. Room 203 133 E. Apple Ave. Muskegon, MI 49442 Kim Grimm (231) 724-6425 RSVP: grimmki@co.muskegon.mi.us
March 10	Lapeer County Mayfield Township Hall 1900 N. Saginaw Lapeer, MI (810) 664-0821
March 13	Berrien County Coloma Township Hall 201 S. Cleveland Paw Paw, MI RSVP: Kathleen (269) 468-7212
March 14	Bay County Williams Township Hall 1080 Midland Rd. Auburn, MI (989) 662-4408 RSVP: clerk@williamstwp.com
March 14	Dickinson County Iron Mountain City Hall - Commissioners Room 510 S. Stephenson Ave. Iron Mountain, MI

	<p>9:00 - 4:00 CST * That means 10:00 - 5:00 EST RSVP: Pete Dishnow at 1-800-366-5885 or dishnowp@michigan.gov</p>
March 15	<p>Marquette County Peter White Public Library - Community Room 217 N. Front Street Marquette, MI 9:30 - 4:00 P.M. RSVP: Pete Dishnow at 1-800-366-5885 or dishnowp@michigan.gov</p>
March 16	<p>Kent County Gaines Township Hall 8555 Kalamazoo Ave. S.E. Caledonia, MI (616) 698-7980 RSVP: Crystal Osterink at costerink@twp.gaines.mi.us</p>
March 16	<p>Chippewa County Eastern Upper Peninsula ISD - Learning Lab 315 Armory Place Sault Ste. Marie 9:00 - 4:00 RSVP: Pete Dishnow at 1-800-366-5885 or dishnowp@michigan.gov</p>
March 17	<p>Crawford County Grayling Township Hall 2090 Viking Way Grayling MI (989) 348-4361</p>
March 20	<p>Wayne County Canton Township Summit Building Professional Development Center 46000 Summit Parkway Canton, MI (734) 394-5120 RSVP: Fax to (734) 394-5128 Attn: Polly or Polly.white@canton-mi.org</p>
March 21	<p>Oakland County</p>

	<p>Novi Civic Center - Gateway Event Quarter (near Parks and Rec. Department) 45175 W. Ten Mile Rd. Troy, MI RSVP: mcornelius@ci.novi.mi.us or call 248-347-0456</p>
March 24	<p>Wexford County Clam Lake Township Hall 8809 E. M 115 Cadillac, MI (231) 775-5401</p>