



# ELECTION NEWS

A special informational bulletin on the implementation of Michigan's new "consolidated elections" legislation

---

Michigan Department of State - Terri Lynn Land, Secretary of State

Issue No. 11

December 17, 2004

## In This Issue . . .

This issue of *Election News* features information on the following topics:

- All "Election Coordinating Committees" Must Meet in January
- Members of "Election Coordinating Committees" Specified by Law
- Report "Templates" Available on Department's Website
- February 22 Election Date Calendar and "Consolidated Elections" Overview Available on Department's Website
- Local and Intermediate School Board Candidate Filing Deadline for May 3 Election Elapses on February 8, 2005

## All "Election Coordinating Committees" Must Meet in January

The "election coordinator" of each local school district, intermediate school district and community college district must convene the members of the district's "election coordinating committee" in January 2005 to finalize arrangements for the conduct of the district's elections. Within 14 days after the "election coordinating committee" is convened, the committee must file a report with the Secretary of State to document the arrangements. Several important points regarding the conduct of the meetings are provided below:

- Meetings held by "election coordinating committees" are subject to the Open Meetings Act and must be publicly posted as required under the Act.
- The "consolidated elections" legislation requires the submission of a report for every local school district, intermediate school district and community college district in the state. This *includes* intermediate school districts that elect their board members at meetings as opposed to popular elections. (While the "consolidated elections" legislation does not change the meeting process such intermediate school districts use to elect their board members, the district's "election coordinating committee" must meet to make arrangements for the conduct of the district's special elections.)
- In an instance where a county clerk is responsible for serving as the district's "election coordinator," it is important that all members of the "election coordinating committee" have

A full understanding of those duties a city or township clerk has a right to assume at the local clerk's option; those duties the county clerk can direct the city or township clerks to perform at the county clerk's discretion; and those duties a city or township clerk can assume under an agreement reached with the county clerk. An explanation is offered below:

***Duties a city or township clerk has a right to assume at the local clerk's option:*** The law provides that the clerk of any city or township that falls in the district can opt to conduct the district's elections in his or her city or township. Clerks making this choice must perform all of the duties associated with the conduct of the district's elections in his or her city or township. Before exercising this option, the city or township clerk must consult with the other members of the city council or township board. Such agreements are binding for two years.

***Duties the county clerk can direct the city and township clerks to perform at the county clerk's discretion:*** The law stipulates that the county clerk may direct any city or township clerk in the district to distribute, receive and process absent voter ballot applications for the district's elections; provide voting equipment for the conduct of the district's elections; and provide "the list of election inspectors for that city or township."

***Duties a city or township clerk can assume under an agreement reached with the county clerk:*** The law stipulates that the county clerk may delegate all or a portion of his or her school election duties to a city or township clerk with the agreement of the city or township clerk. Such arrangements can be used to divide the duties associated with the conduct of the district's elections where the shared responsibility for the duties is deemed the most efficient and practical approach. Such agreements are binding for two years.

### **Members of "Election Coordinating Committees" Specified by Law**

The "consolidated elections" legislation specifies the individuals who must serve on the "election coordinating committees" organized for local school districts, intermediate school districts and community college districts as detailed below:

- If the local school district, intermediate school district or community college district is wholly contained within a single city or township, the clerk of the city or township where the district is located serves as the district's "election coordinator." The district's "election coordinating committee" comprises the "election coordinator" (i.e., the city or township clerk), the other members of the city or township election commission and the secretary of the school board or his or her designee.
- If the local school district, intermediate school district or community college district falls in more than a single city or township, the county clerk serves as the district's "election coordinator." (If the district falls in more than a single county, the clerk of the county in which the largest number of the district's registered electors reside serves as the district's "election coordinator.") The district's "election coordinating committee" comprises the "election coordinator" (i.e., the designated county clerk), the clerk of each city or township in which the school district is located and the secretary of the school board or his or her designee.

In all cases, the designated “election coordinator” is responsible for chairing any and all meetings conducted by the “election coordinating committee.”

### **Report “Templates” Available on Department’s Website**

Suggested “templates” prepared to assist with the preparation of the reports which must be filed by the “election coordinating committees” established for local school districts, intermediate school districts and community college districts can be accessed through the Department’s website <[www.michigan.gov/sos](http://www.michigan.gov/sos)>. Three report templates are available:

- A report template for districts that are wholly contained within a single city or township.
- A report template for districts that fall in more than a single city or township.
- A report template for intermediate school districts that fill their board positions at meetings as opposed to popular elections.

### **February 22 Election Date Calendar and “Consolidated Elections” Overview Available on Department’s Website**

A date calendar prepared for the February 22, 2005 election can be accessed through the Department’s website <[www.michigan.gov/sos](http://www.michigan.gov/sos)>.

An overview of the “consolidated elections” legislation is also available on the Department’s website. A careful reading of the overview is an important first step in understanding the impact “consolidated elections” will have on Michigan’s elections system as well as the actions which must be taken to implement the new program!

### **Local and Intermediate School Board Candidate Filing Deadline for May 3 Election Elapses on February 8, 2005**

Local and intermediate school board candidates who wish to seek office at the May 3 election must file no later than 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 8, 2005.

If the population of the school district is less than 10,000, the candidate’s petition must contain a minimum of 6 signatures; no more than 20 signatures can be filed to cover the minimum signature requirement. A \$100.00 nonrefundable fee may be filed by the candidate in lieu of a petition. An Affidavit of Identity must be filed by the candidate with the petition or fee.

If the population of the school district is 10,000 or more, the candidate’s petition must contain a minimum of 40 signatures; no more than 100 signatures can be filed to cover the minimum signature requirement. A \$100.00 nonrefundable fee may be filed by the candidate in lieu of a petition. An Affidavit of Identity must be filed by the candidate with the petition or fee.



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

**FEBRUARY 22, 2005 ELECTION  
CALENDAR OF DATES**

<b>By Dec. 24</b>	Ballot wording of proposals qualified to appear on ballot certified to county and local clerks. (168.646a)
<b>Jan. 13 through Feb. 1</b>	Precinct inspectors appointed for election. (168.674)
<b>By Jan. 14</b>	First notice of close of registration for election published. Two notices required. (168.498)
<b>Jan. 24</b>	Last day to register for election. (168.498)
<b>By Feb. 2</b>	Absent voter ballots must be available for issuance to voters. (168.714)
<b>By Feb. 11</b>	Pre-Election Campaign Statements filed (closes Feb. 6).
<b>By Feb. 12</b>	First notice of election published. Two notices required. (168.653a)
<b>By 2:00 p.m., Feb. 19</b>	Electors who wish to receive an absent voter ballot for special election by mail submit applications. (168.759)
<b>Up to 4:00 p.m., Feb. 21</b>	Electors qualified to obtain an absent voter ballot for election may vote in person in clerk's office. (168.761)
<b>Up to 4:00 p.m., Feb. 22</b>	Emergency absentee voting for election. (168.759b)
<b>Feb. 22</b>	<b>ELECTION</b>
<b>Feb. 24</b>	Post-Election Campaign Statements filed (closes Mar. 14).
<b>By Feb. 28</b>	Boards of County Canvassers meet to canvass election. (168.821)



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

**SUGGESTED REPORT TEMPLATE**  
**DISTRICTS THAT FALL IN MORE THAN**  
**A SINGLE CITY OR TOWNSHIP**

Suggested elements for the report filed by “election coordinating committee” convened for a district that falls in more than a single city or township include the following:

**General Information**

- Official name of district.
- Listing of the jurisdictions that wholly or partially fall within the district.
- Date of “election coordinating committee” meeting.
- Name of county clerk designated as the district’s “election coordinator.”
- Names and titles of the other members of the district’s “election coordinating committee.”
- Election schedule which will be employed by district to fill its board positions.
- Number of board positions elected in district and term lengths.

**“Opt In” Jurisdictions (If Any)**

A listing of those city and township clerks that have chosen to ”opt in” and conduct the district’s elections in his or her city or township.

Note: The clerk of any city or township that falls in the district can opt to conduct the district’s elections in his or her city or township. Clerks making this choice must perform all of the duties associated with the conduct of the district’s elections in his or her city or township. Before exercising this option, the city or township clerk must consult with the other members of the city council or township board. Such agreements are binding for two years. (MCL 168.305(3) as amended under PA 287 of 2004)

If a city or township clerk serving on the “election coordinating committee” opts to conduct the district’s elections in his or her city or township, the report should include a listing of the tasks which the clerk will perform whenever school district elections are held. Examples:

- Conduct district’s regular elections and special elections.
- Provide voting equipment for the district’s elections.
- Arrange for the programming/coding and testing of voting equipment.
- Publish notice of the “public accuracy test.”
- Publish “Notices of Close of Registration” and “Notices of Election.”
- Handle the distribution, receipt and processing of absentee ballot applications.
- Handle the issuance of absentee ballots and the return of voted absentee ballots.
- Establish precinct boundaries through the local election commission. (If different precinct boundaries for the conduct of the district’s elections are desired.)
- Designate polling places through the city council or township board. (If different polling places are needed for the conduct of the district’s elections.)
- Appoint election inspectors through the local election commission.
- Handle the setup of polling places on election day.
- Store voted ballots after the election.
- Prepare and present reimbursement requests to school district.

**Election Duties**

A statement which specifies who will handle the election duties listed below for those portions of the district which do not fall within a city or township that has opted to conduct the district’s elections.

Note: Duties marked with an asterisk (\*) must be performed by the county clerk serving as the district’s “election coordinator” unless delegated to a city or township clerk under an agreement reached with the city or township clerk. The law does not extend the district’s “election coordinator” the authority to delegate duties associated with the conduct of the district’s elections to the school board secretary or school district personnel.

- Serve as the district’s filing official and accept candidate filings, check petitions for sufficiency, accept candidate withdrawals and certify candidates.\* (Tasks must be performed by a single official in the district.)
- Receive special election resolutions and ballot proposal language adopted by the district’s board.\* (Task must be performed by a single official in the district.)

- Handle the distribution, receipt and processing of absentee ballot applications. (The county clerk serving as the district’s “election coordinator” may direct the city and township clerks in the district to handle this task.)
- Handle the issuance of absentee ballots and the return of the voted absentee ballots.\*
- Handle ballot printing and proofing.\*
- Order necessary precinct supply kits.\*
- Provide voting equipment for the conduct of the district’s elections. (The county clerk serving as the district’s “election coordinator” may direct the city and township clerks in the district to meet this need.)
- Arrange for programming/coding and testing of voting equipment.\*
- Publish notice of the “public accuracy test.”
- Publish “Notices of Close of Registration” and “Notices of Election.”\*
- Handle Qualified Voter File (QVF) related responsibilities (setting up election, production of precinct lists, updating voter history).\*
- Appoint election inspectors for the district’s elections. (This task must be handled by the county election commission established in the “election coordinator’s” county. The county clerk serving as the district’s “election coordinator” may direct the city and township clerks in the district to “provide the list of election inspectors for that city or township.” As an alternative, the task may be delegated to a local election commission with the agreement of the county election commission members and the local election commission members.)
- Handle the setup of polling places on election day.\*
- Handle election day issues and “troubleshooting.”\*
- Transmit election results to Board of Canvassers for the canvass and certification of the election.\*
- Store voted ballots after the election.\*
- Prepare and present reimbursement requests to school district.\*

**Precinct Boundaries and Polling Places Established for District’s Elections (If Necessary)**

As Michigan election law now governs the administration of school elections, precincts established for the conduct of local school district elections, intermediate school district elections and community college district elections cannot contain more than 2,999 registered voters. Precincts established for the conduct of school district election can cross city and township boundaries if desirable. The precincts must be established by the county election commission established in the “election coordinator’s” county.

If the county election commission establishes separate precinct boundaries for the conduct of the district's elections, a description of the precinct boundaries and location of the polling places selected to serve the precincts must be attached to the report.

If there is no need to establish separate precinct boundaries for the conduct of the district's elections, a statement that the district's elections will be administered with the precincts and polling places established on the city/township level for the conduct of state and federal elections must be included in the report.

### **Signatures**

All members of the "election coordinating committee" must sign the report and retain a copy for their records.

### **Filing Report**

The original report must be mailed to the following address:

Michigan Department of State  
Bureau of Elections  
P.O. Box 20126  
Lansing, MI 48901-0726



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

**SUGGESTED REPORT TEMPLATE**  
**DISTRICTS THAT ARE WHOLLY CONTAINED**  
**WITHIN A SINGLE CITY OR TOWNSHIP**

Suggested elements for the report filed by “election coordinating committee” convened for a district that is wholly contained within a single city or township include the following:

**General Information**

- Official name of district.
- The name of the jurisdiction that contains the district.
- Date of “election coordinating committee” meeting.
- Name of city or township clerk designated as the district’s “election coordinator.”
- Names and titles of the other members of the district’s “election coordinating committee.”
- Election schedule which will be employed by district to fill its board positions.
- Number of board positions elected in district and term lengths.

**Election Duties**

A statement which acknowledges that the district’s “election coordinator” (i.e., the city or township clerk) will handle the following duties:

- Serve as the district’s filing official and accept candidate filings, check petitions for sufficiency, accept candidate withdrawals and certify candidates.
- Receive special election resolutions and ballot proposal language adopted by the district’s board.
- Handle the distribution, receipt and processing of absentee ballot applications.
- Handle the issuance of absentee ballots and the return of the voted absentee ballots.
- Handle ballot printing and proofing.

- Order necessary precinct supply kits.
- Provide voting equipment for the conduct of the district's elections.
- Arrange for programming/coding and testing of voting equipment.
- Publish notice of the "public accuracy test."
- Publish "Notices of Close of Registration" and "Notices of Election."
- Handle Qualified Voter File (QVF) related responsibilities (setting up election, procurement of precinct lists, updating voter history).
- Appoint election inspectors through the local election commission.
- Establish precinct boundaries through the local election commission. (If different precinct boundaries for the conduct of the district's elections are desired.)
- Designate polling places through the city council or township board. (If different polling places are needed for the conduct of the district's elections.)
- Handle the setup of polling places on election day.
- Handle election day issues and "troubleshooting."
- Transmit election results to Board of Canvassers for the canvass and certification of the election.
- Store voted ballots after the election.
- Prepare and present reimbursement requests to school district.

**Precinct Boundaries and Polling Places Established for District's Elections (If Necessary)**

As Michigan election law now governs the administration of school elections, precincts established for the conduct of local school district elections, intermediate school district elections and community college district elections cannot contain more than 2,999 registered voters. The precincts must be established by the local election commission.

If the local election commission establishes separate precinct boundaries for the conduct of the district's elections, a description of the precinct boundaries and location of the polling places selected to serve the precincts must be attached to the report.

If there is no need to establish separate precinct boundaries for the conduct of the district's elections, a statement that the district's elections will be administered with the precincts and polling places established in the city or township for the conduct of state and federal elections must be included in the report.

## **Signatures**

All members of the “election coordinating committee” must sign the report and retain a copy for the records.

## **Filing Report**

The original report must be mailed to the following address:

Michigan Department of State  
Bureau of Elections  
P.O. Box 20126  
Lansing, MI 48901-0726



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

**SUGGESTED REPORT TEMPLATE**  
**INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DISTRICTS THAT FILL**  
**THEIR BOARD POSITIONS AT MEETINGS**

Suggested elements for the report filed by an “election coordinating committee” convened for an intermediate school district that fills its board positions at meetings are listed below. (While the “consolidated elections” legislation does not change the meeting process such intermediate school districts use to elect their board members, the district’s “election coordinating committee” must meet to make arrangements for the conduct of the district’s special elections.)

**General Information**

- Official name of district.
- Listing of the jurisdictions that wholly or partially fall within the district.
- Date of “election coordinating committee” meeting.
- Name of county clerk designated as the district’s “election coordinator.”
- Names and titles of the other members of the district’s “election coordinating committee.”

**“Opt In” Jurisdictions (If Any)**

A listing of those city and township clerks that have chosen to “opt in” and conduct the district’s special elections in his or her city or township.

Note: The clerk of any city or township that falls in the district can opt to conduct the district’s special elections in his or her city or township. Clerks making this choice must perform all of the duties associated with the conduct of the district’s elections in his or her city or township. Before exercising this option, the city or township clerk must consult with the other members of the city council or township board. Such agreements are binding for two years. (MCL 168.305(3) as amended under PA 287 of 2004)

If a city or township clerk serving on the “election coordinating committee” opts to conduct the district’s special elections in his or her city or township, the report should include a listing of the tasks which the clerk will perform whenever school district elections are held. Examples:

- Conduct district’s special elections.
- Provide voting equipment for the district’s special elections.
- Arrange for the programming/coding and testing of voting equipment.
- Publish notice of the “public accuracy test.”
- Publish “Notices of Close of Registration” and “Notices of Election.”
- Handle the distribution, receipt and processing of absentee ballot applications.
- Handle the issuance of absentee ballots and the return of voted absentee ballots.
- Establish precinct boundaries through the local election commission. (If different precinct boundaries for the conduct of the district’s special elections are desired.)
- Designate polling places through the city council or township board. (If different polling places are needed for the conduct of the district’s elections.)
- Appoint election inspectors through the local election commission.
- Handle the setup of polling places on election day.
- Store voted ballots after the special election.
- Prepare and present reimbursement requests to district.

**Election Duties**

A statement which specifies who will handle the election duties listed below for those portions of the district which do not fall within a city or township that has opted to conduct the district’s special elections.

Note: Duties marked with an asterisk (\*) must be performed by the county clerk serving as the district’s “election coordinator” unless delegated to a city or township clerk under an agreement reached with the city or township clerk. The law does not extend the district’s “election coordinator” the authority to delegate duties associated with the conduct of the district’s elections to the school board secretary or school district personnel.

- Receive special election resolutions and ballot proposal language adopted by the district’s board.\* (Task must be performed by a single official in the district.)
- Handle the distribution, receipt and processing of absentee ballot applications. (The county clerk serving as the district’s “election coordinator” may direct the city and township clerks in the district to handle this task.)
- Handle the issuance of absentee ballots and the return of the voted absentee ballots.\*

- Handle ballot printing and proofing.\*
- Order necessary precinct supply kits.\*
- Provide voting equipment for the conduct of the district’s special elections. (The county clerk serving as the district’s “election coordinator” may direct the city and township clerks in the district to meet this need.)
- Arrange for programming/coding and testing of voting equipment.\*
- Publish notice of the “public accuracy test.”
- Publish “Notices of Close of Registration” and “Notices of Election.”\*
- Handle Qualified Voter File (QVF) related responsibilities (setting up election, production of precinct lists, updating voter history).\*
- Appoint election inspectors for the district’s special elections. (This task must be handled by the county election commission established in the “election coordinator’s” county. The county clerk serving as the district’s “election coordinator” may direct the city and township clerks in the district to “provide the list of election inspectors for that city or township.” As an alternative, the task may be delegated to a local election commission with the agreement of the county election commission members and the local election commission members.)
- Handle the setup of polling places on election day.\*
- Handle election day issues and “troubleshooting.”\*
- Transmit election results to Board of Canvassers for the canvass and certification of the election.\*
- Store voted ballots after the election.\*
- Prepare and present reimbursement requests to school district.\*

**Precinct Boundaries and Polling Places Established for District’s Special Elections (If Necessary)**

As Michigan election law now governs the administration of school elections, precincts established for the conduct of local school district elections, intermediate school district elections and community college district elections cannot contain more than 2,999 registered voters. Precincts established for the conduct of school district election can cross city and township boundaries if desirable. The precincts must be established by the county election commission established in the “election coordinator’s” county.

If the “election coordinating committee” establishes separate precinct boundaries for the conduct of the district’s special elections, a description of the precinct boundaries and location of the polling places selected to serve the precincts must be attached to the report.

If there is no need to establish separate precinct boundaries for the conduct of the district's special elections, a statement that the district's special elections will be administered with the precincts established on the city/township level for the conduct of state and federal elections must be included in the report.

**Signatures**

All members of the "election coordinating committee" must sign the report and retain a copy for their records.

**Filing Report**

The original report must be mailed to the following address:

Michigan Department of State  
Bureau of Elections  
P.O. Box 20126  
Lansing, MI 48901-0726