



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

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State Sponsored Voter ID Card Reimbursement Program Announced

Information on a newly announced Voter ID card reimbursement program will be forwarded to all city and township clerks through the Michigan Department of State's Bureau of Elections in the near future. City and township clerks will be able to use the program to recover the costs associated with the issuance of Voter ID cards to voters who experienced a polling place location change earlier this year for any of the following reasons:

- Prior to "consolidated elections," voters attended separate polling places for school district elections and state, federal and municipal elections. Election commission eliminated separate polling places for school district elections.
- Prior to "consolidated elections," voters attended separate polling places for school district elections and state, federal and municipal elections. Election commission maintained the separate polling places – but changed the locations of the polling places used for school district elections or for state, federal and municipal elections.
- Prior to "consolidated elections," voters attended the same polling places for school district elections and state, federal and municipal elections. Election commission established separate polling places for school district elections and state, federal and municipal elections.

Given the introduction of the state sponsored Voter ID card reimbursement program, Michigan's school districts are relieved of all responsibility for the costs associated with the issuance of Voter ID cards in preparation for the conduct of the 2005 school district elections. City and township clerks who had planned to bill their local school districts for the costs associated with the issuance of updated Voter ID cards should, instead, hold their cost records for the preparation and submission of a reimbursement claim form to the Michigan Department of State's Bureau of Elections. A Voter ID card reimbursement claim form will be supplied through the Bureau.

City and township clerks who wish to participate in the state sponsored Voter ID card reimbursement program will be required to use the Voter ID cards which were returned as “undeliverable” for voter registration list maintenance purposes. Instructions on the actions which must be taken to qualify for the reimbursement program will be supplied through the Bureau.

Date Calendar for September 13 Village Election Available on Department’s Website

A date calendar prepared for the September 13 village election can be accessed through the Department’s website <www.michigan.gov/sos>.

All villages that have opted to use the odd-year September election date for the conduct of their regular elections will receive an informational packet on the administration of the election next week. The informational packet will also be mailed to all county clerks.

Dividing Precinct Management Costs Among Multiple School Districts

In an instance where multiple school districts appeared on a precinct’s May 3 election ballot, the costs associated with the management of the precinct (labor costs, rental charges, custodial fees, etc.) must be equally shared by the school districts (see Example I). In a “split” precinct situation, the costs associated with the management of the precinct must be proportionately shared by the school districts (see Examples II, III and IV).

Example I (two districts; no splits): All of the precinct’s voters reside in ISD “A” and local school district “B.” In such an instance, ISD “A” is responsible for 50% of the precinct management costs and the local school district “B” is responsible for 50% of the precinct management costs.

Example II (two districts; single split): 75% of the precinct’s voters reside in local school district “C” and 25% of the precinct’s voters reside in local school district “D.” In such an instance, local school district “C” is responsible for 75% of the precinct management costs and local school district “D” is responsible for 25% of the precinct management costs.

Example III (three districts; single split): All of the precinct’s voters reside in ISD “E”; 75% of the precinct’s voters reside in local school district “F”; and 25% of the precinct’s voters reside in local school district “G.” In such an instance, ISD “E” is responsible for 50% of the precinct management costs; local school district “F” is responsible for 75% of the remaining costs; and local school district “G” is responsible for 25% of the remaining costs.

Example IV (four districts; single split): 75% of the precinct’s voters reside in ISD “H” and local school district “I”; 25% of the precinct’s voters reside in ISD “J” and local school district “K.” In such an instance, ISD “H” and local school district “I” are each responsible for 37.5% of the precinct management costs; ISD “J” and local school district “K” are each responsible for 12.5% of the precinct management costs.