

Saugatuck Consolidation Informational Meeting

Questions and Answers

Question #1: Will the SBC be concerned about who files the referendum petitions? In other words, if the SBC issues an order consolidating the jurisdictions that are the subject of the petitions, will the standing of the original petitioners, the Consolidated Government Committee, be diminished before the SBC if they seek a referendum on the order?

Answer: NO

Question #2: The original petitions required detailed engineering, mapping and legal definitional work prior to their circulation. Will the referendum petitions need to meet the same requirement or will they be a more simple, traditional referendum petition used by most governments?

Answer: The petition will only need to specify what petition is for in a way that the person signing is not confused as to what they are supporting.

Question #3: When does the SBC forecast holding the legal sufficiency hearing, the local hearing and a final adjudicatory hearing?

Answer:

Legal Sufficiency Meeting- March or April.

Public Hearing: Approximately 2 months after a petition is approved for Legal Sufficiency.

Adjudicative Hearing: August or September 2012. These are estimates only.

Question #4: Our analysis of the two timelines posted on the SBC website is that the earliest we could get to election is 18 months after the legal sufficiency hearing, will you be able to present your own timeline?

Answer: Due to the low amount of consolidation petitions that have been filed and the many steps a petition must go through a firm timeline is not possible.

Supplemental questions from Holland Sentinel article:

Question #5: What are the Maximum number of elections?

Answer: as few as 1 and as many as 4.

1- for a referendum if the SBC approves the consolidation and 5% of the registered electors request referendum and vote for charter commissioners, if applicable. If the voters of any municipality affected by the consolidation by a majority vote reject the proposition then the proceedings shall end.

1- to vote on charter commissioners if not voted on at referendum and if applicable.

1- to approve/reject proposed charter.

1- to approve/reject revised charter.

Question #6: How many charter commissioners from each municipality?

Answer: Between 8 and 10. In this case, 9.

Option 1: The voters can elect charter commissioners directly. In this case the number of charter commissioners is 9 and is proportional to the population of the current municipality to the total population of the proposed city. Each municipality has at least one regardless of population. [MCL 123.1013(1)]

Option 2: The governing bodies of the respective municipalities may by resolution appoint charter commissioners. In this option all municipalities shall have

an equal number of charter commissioners. [MCL 123.1013(2)]

Question #7: Can signers of a petition have their names removed?

Answer: No. AGO 3180 dealt with this question and we know of no provisions in statute or legal precedent that contradicts this opinion.