



ELECTION NEWS

A special informational bulletin on the implementation of Michigan election law.

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

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Post-Election Data Questionnaire Distributed to City and Township Clerks

Response required no later than Friday, January 7, 2011

In early December, a post-election data questionnaire was mailed to all city and township clerks throughout the state. (A copy of the questionnaire was also mailed to all county clerks for informational purposes.) The questionnaire is designed to collect the data needed by the Bureau of Elections to respond to the "2010 Election Administration and Voting Survey" distributed by the Election Assistance Commission (EAC) in Washington D.C.

The questionnaire only asks for information requested by the EAC which we cannot supply with the resources available in our office. Every effort has been made to make the survey as convenient to complete as possible.

It is important that all city and township clerks respond to the questionnaire no later than Friday, January 7, 2011.

Note: A survey requesting data related to the November 2, 2010 general election has also been distributed to many clerks throughout the state by the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) in Washington, D.C. The FVAP survey is not related to the survey distributed through the Bureau in any way. Responding to the survey distributed by the Bureau does not satisfy the survey distributed by the FVAP. Similarly, responding to the survey distributed by the FVAP does not satisfy the survey distributed by the Bureau.

Please feel free to contact Carol Pierce of this office if you have any questions regarding the survey distributed through the Bureau. Phone: (517) 373-2540. Email: Piercec1@Michigan.gov.

New Election Date Option Extended to School Districts Using the Odd-Year November Election Date

House Bill 6232 was signed into law with immediate effect on December 15, 2010 (PA 222 of 2010).

With the enactment of the new law, a local school district, intermediate school district or community college district that currently fills its board positions on the odd-year November election date may choose to conduct its regular elections on the even-year November election date. In an instance where a school district adopts such a resolution, the date change takes effect “after December 31 of the year in which the resolution is adopted.” (MCL 168.642a(5) as amended under PA 222 of 2010)

Note that if an eligible school district adopts a resolution to make the allowed date change before the end of 2010, the district does not hold an election in 2011. If, on the other hand, an eligible school district adopts a resolution to make the allowed election date change after December 31, 2010, the district must hold an election in 2011.

An eligible school district that wishes to consider the allowed election date change must observe the following requirements:

- At least one public hearing must be conducted by the local school board, intermediate school district board or community college district board prior to considering the election date change for adoption. (MCL 168.642(10) as amended under PA 292 of 2004)
- A “record roll call vote” on the resolution must be conducted. (MCL 168.642(10) as amended under PA 292 of 2004)
- The vote on the resolution may take place at the end of the final public hearing. If the resolution is adopted, a copy of the resolution must be filed with the Secretary of State. (MCL 168.642(10) as amended under PA 292 of 2004)

All School District “Election Coordinating Committees” Must Meet in Early 2011: A Reminder

All school district “election coordinating committees” must meet in early 2011 to review the arrangements that are currently in place to conduct the school district’s elections.

Michigan election law, MCL 168.305(1), required all school district “election coordinating committees” to file a report with the Secretary of State in early 2005 which set forth the arrangements made by the members of the committee for the conduct of the school district’s elections.

Michigan election law, MCL 168.305(2), requires all school district “election coordinating committees” to meet at two-year intervals to review and, if necessary, alter the election arrangements set forth in the committee’s most recent report. After meeting, the committee must notify the Secretary of State in writing that 1) its previous report is not being altered or 2) its new report contains agreed upon alterations. Election arrangements made by a school district “election coordinating committee” are binding on the participating jurisdictions for at least two years after the report is filed and each jurisdiction continues to be bound until an altered report is filed.

In view of the above, all school district “election coordinating committees” must meet in early 2011 to review the arrangements that are currently in place to conduct the district’s elections and file the required notification with the Secretary of State after meeting. The submission of the required notification no later than February 15, 2011 is required.

NOTE: Committees changing the arrangements made to conduct elections for a school district holding an election on May 3, 2011 are urged to submit the changes to the Secretary of State well in advance of the February 8, 2011 candidate filing deadline established for the election. The early submission of the notification is especially important if the committee changes the office where the school board candidates must file.

A report must be submitted 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 did not change the meeting process most intermediate school districts use to elect their board members, the district’s “election coordinating committee” must meet to review the arrangements made for the conduct of the district’s special elections.)

Any and all meetings held by “election coordinating committees” are subject to the Open Meetings Act and must be publicly posted as required under the Act.

Additional information regarding the conduct of the “election coordinating committee” meetings – including a suggested report template – can be found in Issue 83 of *Election News*.

Election Resources Available on Department’s Web Site
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A wide variety of election related information and materials can be accessed through the Department’s Web site www.Michigan.gov/sos. To locate, click on “Elections in Michigan”; on the Elections in Michigan page, click on “Information for Election Administrators.” The information and materials currently available on the Web site include the following:

- Michigan election law.
- February 22, 2011 Voter Information Poster.
- 2011 election date calendars.
- Provisional balloting implementation materials.
- Election inspector training materials.
- Michigan voter identification requirement implementation materials.
- AutoMARK implementation materials.
- Archives of previous issues of *Election News* and *News You Can Use*.

Have a Question or Need Assistance?
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If you have a question or need assistance with your election related duties, please do not hesitate to contact the Michigan Department of State's Bureau of Elections. We will be happy to assist in any way possible!

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