

Special 2012 Election Edition

OFFICES TO BE ELECTED IN 2012

President/Vice President	Judge of the 14th Circuit Court
U.S. Senator (1 seat)	Judge of the 60th District Court
U.S. Representative in Congress 2nd District	Judge of Probate
State Representative 91st District	County-wide Offices
State Representative 92nd District	County Commissioners
State Board of Education (2 seats)	Specified City Offices
Michigan State University Trustees (2 seats)	Township Offices
University of Michigan Regents (2 seats)	Specified Village Offices
Wayne State University Governors (2 seats)	Specified School District Positions
Justice of the Supreme Court	Partisan Precinct Delegates
Judge of the Court of Appeals	



Open Seats, Candidate Filing Deadlines, and Filing Requirements

Please check our website at www.co.muskegon.mi.us/clerk to see which seats are being elected in 2012.

Filing Deadlines: Candidates/ Precinct Delegates

By 4:00 p.m., Candidates for county convention delegate (precinct delegate) file an Affidavit of Identity Tuesday for the August primary. Filing submitted to the clerk of the county, city or township in May 15, 2012 which candidate resides. Withdrawal deadline elapses at 4:00 p.m. on May 18. (168.624, 624a)

By 4:00 p.m., Partisan and nonpartisan candidates (other than judicial candidates) file nominating Tuesday petitions (or fees if applicable) and Affidavit of Identity for the August Primary. Withdrawal May 15, 2012 deadline elapses at 4:00 p.m. on May 18. (168.551)

By 4:00 p.m. Candidate without political party affiliation file qualifying petitions and Affidavit of Tuesday Identity for the November general election. Withdrawal deadline elapses at July 19, 2012 4:00 p.m. on July 23. (168.590c)

For more information, go to the State of Michigan website at www.state.gov/sos

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Voter's Requiring Assistance

To comply with the Help America Vote Act (HAVA), voting instructions will be available on audio tape and in Braille. Arrangements for obtaining the instructions in these alternative formats can be made by contacting your local clerk in advance of the election. All polling locations are accessible for voters with disabilities.

An AutoMARK Voter Assist Terminal, which will be available in each precinct, may be used to assist with marking your optical scan ballot.



This newsletter is presented as a public service from the office of
 Nancy A. Waters
 Muskegon
 County Clerk
 Vital Records and
 Elections Office
 141 E. Apple Ave.,
 2nd floor
 Muskegon, MI 49442

Phone:

(231) 724-6221

Fax: (231) 724-6262

Office hours:

8 a.m.- 5 p.m.

Monday-Friday

Clerk of the Court
 Circuit Court
 Records
 Michael E. Kobza
 Hall of Justice
 990 Terrace St.,
 6th floor
 Muskegon, MI
 49442
 Phone:

(231) 724-6251

Fax: (231) 724-6695

Office hours:

8:00 a.m.-5 p.m.

Monday-Friday.

If you have questions or comments for the next newsletter, please call, write or e-mail using the information above.
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E-mail:

clerk@co.muskegon.mi.us

Web site:

www.co.muskegon.mi.us/ clerk

2012 ELECTION QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Q. What is the Difference Between a Primary (August) and a General (November) Election?

- In a primary election voters nominate candidates on a Democrat or Republican ticket for the general election. Voters may vote for candidates in one major party only. Also conducted are nonpartisan primaries where the list of candidates exceeds more than twice the number to be elected.
- In a general election all voters elect officials from the party nominees and independent candidates. They also elect candidates in nonpartisan races. Voters may vote for candidates in more than one party.

Q. Can I vote a "split" ticket?

A. At the August 7, 2012 Primary voters cannot "split" their ticket (i.e., vote in more than one party column). Voters in the August 7 primary must confine their votes to a single party column.

At the November 6, 2012 General Election voters can "split" their ticket. A voter participating in the November 6 general election who wishes to cast a "split" ticket can vote for individual candidates of his or her choice under any party or can vote a "straight party" ticket and vote for individual candidates under any other party. The votes cast for individual candidates under the other parties **will** override the straight party vote in the races involved.

Q. Does a "straight" ticket cover all candidates in that party?

A. Yes. At the top of each political party's column on the ballot, there is an opportunity to vote "straight" party, which selects all candidate on that party's ticket with a single vote. If a voter votes a straight party ticket, there is no need to vote again for any individual candidate in the party column. However, if a voter does vote straight party and then votes for an individual candidate in that same party, it will not invalidate their vote for that candidate.

Q. Can a person confined in jail or prison vote?

A. A Michigan resident confined in jail or prison who is awaiting arraignment or trial is eligible to vote.

A Michigan resident who is serving a sentence in jail or prison after conviction cannot vote during his or her period of confinement.

After a Michigan resident who is serving a sentence in jail or prison is released, he or she is free to participate in elections without restrictions. However, they must meet the qualified voter requirements listed on page 3.

2012 Election Dates and Voter Registration Deadlines

Primary Election

Tuesday, August 7, 2012

Last day to register for the

August Primary Election

Monday, July 9, 2012

General Election

Tuesday, November 6, 2012

Last day to register for the

November General Election

Tuesday, October 9, 2012

Online Campaign Finance

Campaign Finance reports filed with the Muskegon County Clerk's Office may be viewed and printed online for local, school, and county-level Candidate Committees, Ballot Question Committees, and Political Action Committees. Online Records are available from 2007 to present. Reports for active Committees are still available in the County Clerk's Elections Office.

www.co.muskegon.mi.us/clerk/campaignfinance

Election Information You Should Know

Qualifications to Register to Vote:

- Citizen of the United States
- At least 18 years of age on or before Election Day
- A resident of Michigan and the city or township where you are applying to register to vote for at least 30 days prior to the election.

Registering to Vote:

Any qualified elector who is not already registered, may register to vote at the office of the City Clerk, Township Clerk, County Clerk, Secretary of State or at a designated state agency during their regular business hours.

Absent Voter Ballots

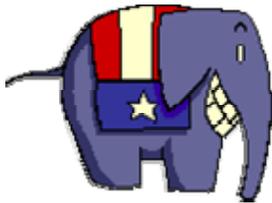
Any resident age 60 or older, or physically unable to attend the polls, unable to attend the polls because of the tenets of their religion, appointed as a precinct inspector in a precinct other than the precinct in which they reside, is confined to jail awaiting arraignment or trial, or that expects to be absent from the community on election day, may apply for an absent voter ballot. Contact your local clerk for an absentee ballot application.

Information for Precinct Delegates

What is a precinct? The precinct is the smallest political unit in the country and all voters in a precinct vote at one location. The precinct is where elections are won and lost. It is your neighborhood. You know the people and you know what issues are most important to them.

What is a Precinct Delegate? The role of precinct delegate is one of the most important, yet, least understood of any elected office. It is the active precinct delegate who wins elections for either the Democratic or Republican Party. Precinct delegates are elected directly by the voters of each precinct to serve as a bridge between voters and the Democratic or Republican Party in your neighborhood and you represent your neighborhood at the Democratic or Republican meetings.

Who to contact? Contact the City or Township Clerk (see page 4) where you reside to get a precinct map for your area. *Many precinct boundaries have changed due to population shifts in the 2010 census.*



Republican Party

Robert Schostak, State Chair
520 Seymour Street
Lansing, MI 48933
(517) 487-5413
www.migop.org

Christina Achterhoff, County Chair
366 N. Bear Lake Road
North Muskegon, MI 49445
(H) (231) 719-2105
e-mail: christina.achterhoff@comcast.net

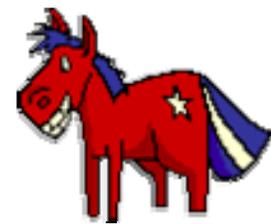
LOCAL POLITICAL PARTY CONTACT INFORMATION



Democratic Party

Mark Brewer, State Chair
606 Townsend Street
Lansing, MI 48933
(517) 371-5410
www.michigandems.com

Steve Markel, County Chair
6635 Zellar Road
Whitehall, MI 49461
(H) (231) 894-8088
e-mail: SLMARKEL@yahoo.com



About the Muskegon County Board of Canvassers

Members of the Board of Canvassers have a crucial role when it comes to all Muskegon County elections. The board completes canvas and certification of primaries and elections, conducts recounts, and inspects ballot containers.

The state requires this board to be bipartisan, meaning that membership represents both political parties and recommendations for appointment come from the Party Chairperson. After certifying state and federal election results locally, the board sends the results to the State Board of Canvassers for approval. Term length is four years, and current members are Linda Whalen (Dem) and Shirley Privacky (Rep) whose terms expire Oct. 31, 2015 and Doug Smith (Dem) and Nancy Wells (Rep) whose terms expire Oct. 31, 2013.



The board meets according to the election schedule. Each are paid a per diem of \$35 plus mileage.

All Meetings are open to the public. Check our website for dates and times:

<http://www.co.muskegon.mi.us/clerk/elections/index.html>

WANTED! **PRECINCT INSPECTORS**

Precinct inspectors are people who are paid to work at the polls on Election Day in accordance with the law. Registered voters interested in serving as election inspectors must submit an election inspector application to their local clerk. We have listed the names, municipalities and telephone numbers below. In addition to the applicant's name, address and date of birth, applicants are required to include their political party preference. **Contact your local clerk beginning early June, 2012. All Precinct inspectors must complete training prior to serving at the polls. Trained inspectors are eligible to work anywhere in the county.**

Note: This is for Tuesday, August 7 and Tuesday, November 6. The hours are generally from 6 a.m. - 9 p.m.

YOUR CITY OR TOWNSHIP CLERK

City of Montague, Laurie Robillard	(231) 893-1155
City of Muskegon, Ann Cummings	(231) 724-6705
City of Muskegon Heights, Sharon Gibbs	(231) 733-8820
City of North Muskegon, Marcia Jeske	(231) 744-1621
City of Norton Shores, Lynne Fuller	(231) 798-4391
City of Roosevelt Park, Tammera Harmsen	(231) 755-3721 ext 104
City of Whitehall, Karen Helmlinger	(231) 894-4048
Blue Lake Township, Fred E. Arbogast, Sr.	(231) 894-6335
Casnovia Township, Carl VanLoon	(616) 675-4064
Cedar Creek Township, Stephanie Kuziak	(231) 821-0014
Dalton Township, Tracy DeMarse	(231) 766-3043 ext 402
Egelston Township, Joan Raap	(231) 788-2308 ext 16
Fruitland Township, Karolyn Rillema	(231) 766-3208
Fruitport Township, Carol Hulka	(231) 865-3151
Holton Township, Melanie Johnson	(231) 821-2168
Laketon Township, Christina Achterhoff	(231) 744-2454
Montague Township, Wesley Weesies	(231) 894-5920
Moorland Township, Rose Spoelman	(231) 853-6735
Muskegon Charter Township, Anne Oakes	(231) 777-2555 ext 312
Ravenna Township, Penny (Wright) Sherman	(231) 853-6942
Sullivan Township, Sue Buckner	(231) 788-1600
Whitehall Township, Cherry Orent	(231) 894-4659
White River Township, Joy Ann Lehman	(231) 893-2095