



Is a Constitutional Convention in the Near Future?

September/October/November

Volume 2, Issue 1, 2010

Currently, the Michigan Constitution requires that every 16 years, Michigan voters decide whether or not to have a Constitutional Convention. If voters elect to have one, 148 delegates are elected within a 6-month period of the ballot. These delegates represent the districts of the State House and the State Senate.

The delegates have an immense duty: to draft a new Constitution.

When they are finished, the revisions are presented to the voters of the state. If the revised, new draft of the Michigan Constitution does not receive a 50%+1 or more vote, then it fails and the delegates must try again. If the vote for a Constitutional Convention fails, then it will not appear again on the ballot until 2026.

Whether you are for, or against, your vote on this issue is very important. While some believe the current Constitution (in place since 1963) has served the citizens well, others believe there are issues that need to be revised or challenged.

If you are not already, it is important to become familiar with the Michigan Constitution.

Citizens cannot make an informed vote if they are not aware of what it is, or its contents.

The Michigan Constitution contains a host of information, including Declaration of Rights, elections procedures, common law and statutes, and the various branches of government.

You may view a copy of this document at: <http://www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/publications/constitution.pdf>

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Mark Your Calendar for Free Entrepreneur Course

If you have recently registered for DBA (Doing Business under an Assumed Name), just started a business or are considering opening your own business, this free workshop may be helpful.

The Michigan State University Extension and Muskegon County Clerk Nancy A. Waters have joined together to offer a short, one-time entrepreneur course. It will be at 9 a.m.- noon on September 22, October 27 and November 17 in the Muskegon County Training Center, 133 Apple. The course is free and open to the public.

To pre-register, call (231) 724-6316.

This newsletter is presented as a public service from the office of

Nancy A. Waters
Muskegon County Clerk
Vital Records and Elections Office
New Location

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.

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:
8:30 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

Meet Our Muskegon County Administrator

Bonnie B. Hammersley has served in this position since March 30, 2009. She has more than 20 years of progressive management experience in local government, with a concentration in managing the delivery of customer-friendly and cost effective services.



Prior to joining Muskegon County, Bonnie was employed by Dane County, the 2nd largest county in the state of Wisconsin, for 20 years.

For eight years, she served as Director of Administration, which is the highest non-elected position. In Dane County, she was recognized for her approach to implement practices and resolve issues by merging the knowledge and talents of key stakeholders in an effort to build and maintain good working relationships. Bonnie has extensive experience with balancing county budgets as well as her work on county jail issues. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from Edgewood College in Madison, WI.

Back to school! Get birth certificates at County Clerk's office

School will soon be in full swing, and birth certificates are often requested by schools for a variety of reasons ranging from kindergarten enrollment to participation in athletics. They may be obtained at the Vital Records office, located at 141 E. Apple. These will only be released to parents and legal guardians. Photo identification is required.



Please provide full name as it should appear on the record, as well as the father's full name and the mother's full maiden name. Most parents find they may need more than one copy. The fee is \$15 for the first certified copy, or an economical two for \$20.

When requesting documents via mail, please enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope. For more information, call (231) 724-6221, or visit

<http://www.co.muskegon.mi.us/clerk/vitalrecords.htm>

PLEASE NOTE MUSKEGON COUNTY HOLIDAY OBSERVANCES

All County Offices will be closed for the following legal holidays:

Labor Day	Monday, September 6
Veterans Day	Thursday, November 11
Thanksgiving Day	Thursday, November 25
Day After Thanksgiving	Friday, November 26
Christmas Eve, observed	Thursday, December 23
Christmas Day, observed	Friday, December 24
New Years Eve, observed	Thursday, December 30
New Years Day, observed	Friday, December 31



Help offered through Legal Advocates Office

Those who are experiencing domestic challenges may find support through the Legal Advocates Office, located on the 4th floor of the Michael E. Kobza Hall of Justice, 990 Terrace in Muskegon. Representatives from Every Woman's Place provide a variety of free legal advocacy services, such as personal protection orders for victims of domestic violence, dating violence and victims of stalking; divorce, and emergency custody orders when domestic violence or sexual assault is a factor.

The legal advocates also offer support during courtroom procedures, assistance with other systems such as DHS, police, medical and landlords, and domestic violence education. Petitioning parties of personal protection orders may receive help with processing extensions and violations. Advocates also assist parties with the processing of making objections. For more information, visit:

*<http://www.co.muskegon.mi.us/circuitcourt/ppos.htm>
or www.everywomansplace.org.*

Hours for the Legal Advocates Office are 9 a.m.-noon and 1-5 p.m. (closed during lunch hour), Monday-Friday. It is located on the 4th floor of the Michael E. Kobza Hall of Justice, 990 Terrace, Muskegon.

**EVERY WOMAN'S PLACE
IS LOCATED AT
1221 W. LAKETON
IN MUSKEGON.**

**FOR MORE
INFORMATION ABOUT
ITS SERVICES, CALL
(231) 759-7909 OR THE
24-HOUR CRISIS LINE,
(231) 722-3333.**

DIVORCE PROCEDURES IN MUSKEGON COUNTY

When filing for divorce, a petitioner must have been a resident of the State of Michigan for at least six (6) months prior to filing.

Divorce cases are designated by those with minor children and those without minor children. For cases without minor children, the filing fee is \$150. In cases with minor children, the filing fee is \$150, plus an \$80 Judgment Fee. You may be eligible to have these fees waived.

In a divorce with minor children, the petitioner can expect it will take a minimum of six (6) months from filing to conclusion. A divorce without minor children will take a minimum of sixty (60) days from filing to conclusion.

The Michigan Divorce Book, is available at bookstores in two versions, one for divorce with minor children (\$34.95), and one for divorce without minor children (\$28.95).

Hackley Public Library has "Form" packets available for divorce with minor children for \$3, or \$2 for divorce without minor children. Forms for preparing a divorce without an attorney are NOT available through the Circuit Court Records Office.

For questions about filing for a divorce, you may wish to consult an attorney.



Since 2009, the Muskegon County Clerk's office has provided informational articles to the public regarding its services. Listed below is an **INDEX** listing the articles to date. Please visit "The Spotlight" online at the County Clerk's Website, www.co.muskegon.mi.us/clerk. For additional information, call the Circuit Court Records Department at (231) 724-6251 or the Vital Records Department at (231) 724-6221.

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