

AGENDA REPORT

TO: Mayor Pat Humphrey & Clare City Commissioners
FROM: Diane Lyon, City Clerk
DATE: February 15, 2024
RE: *Communications

For the Agenda of February 19, 2024

***Note: This is a Consent Agenda item and is considered routine by the City Commission. As such, this matter shall be automatically enacted by one motion with all other Consent Agenda items unless a Commissioner or citizen requests this item be individually discussed. In this event, it shall be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered and acted upon in its designated sequence on the approved Clare City Commission agenda of February 19, 2024.**

FOIA Requests & Responses: Kathy Dickinson, Scott Minkoff.

2024-5 BOE News Updates: The most recent information updates for Election processes and procedures are attached.

Letter from the State Director of Elections Jonathan Brater: Director Brater has provided a letter to Clerks outlining the newest procedures for voter challenges.

News Release from SOS Jocelyn Benson: The SOS office has announced a 67% increase over 2020 for absent voter ballots already cast in this Presidential Primary.

Charter Communications Programming Change: Charter has announced several changes to their programming line-up.

Congratulatory Letter from Congressman John Moolenaar: US Representative John Moolenaar Sent a letter congratulation the city on receiving USDA grant funds for a new law enforcement vehicle and equipment.

MML Dividend Notice: The MML has announced the total 2024 Member Dividends to be distributed to member communities.

Free Drive-Thru Mobile Food Distribution: Clare County's March Drive Through Food Distribution will take place on March 2, 2024, at 1473 Transportation Dr., Harrison, MI.

Site Plans, Special Use Permits, Variance Requests & Public Notices:

- March Board of Review Notice
- Notice for Bids-Fire Department Utility Task Vehicle

Attachments. As noted above.

REQUEST FOR PUBLIC RECORD (FOIA)

NAME OF REQUESTOR: Kathy Dickinson DATE FILED: 2/7/2024

COMPANY _____ REQUEST FORM: WRITTEN X ELECTRONIC _____

MAILING ADDRESS: 607 Orchard Ave Clare, Mi 48617

DAYTIME PHONE NUMBER: 989-339-4862 EMAIL: colabear1081@yahoo.com

I REQUEST TO HAVE THE PUBLIC RECORD(S) SUPPLIED TO ME IN THE FOLLOWING FORM:

INSPECTION: _____ COPIES: X

NAME AND DESCRIPTION OF THE MATERIAL, INFORMATION, DOCUMENTS, ETC. IDENTIFYING THE PUBLIC RECORD(S) DESIRED. DESCRIPTIONS MUST BE SPECIFIC IN ORDER TO PROVIDE THE CORRECT INFORMATION:

Police reports having to do with my address (607 Orchard Ave Clare, Mi 48617) and Matthew Hughes. Matthew Hughes lived at our home and the police were called on several occasions.

Reports from
May 2020 - Current

PAYMENT MUST BE RECEIVED PRIOR TO DELIVERY OF PUBLIC RECORDS.

DELIVERY TO ABOVE ADDRESS: Yes X No _____

LIST ALTERNATE DELIVERY ADDRESS, IF APPLICABLE: _____

I understand a public body must respond to my request with five (5) business days after it is received and is allowed one (1) additional day to respond if it is received by Email, fax or other electronic means. The public body must grant or deny all or a portion of my request, or issue a notice extending for ten (10) business days, the period in which the public body must respond to my request. In place of these deadlines, I agree to allow the public body a reasonable time to process my request. I further understand that if I withdraw my request after the City has begun work on the request, I will be responsible for all costs incurred by the City of Clare up until the point of withdrawal.

Kathy Dickinson
SIGNATURE

OFFICE USE ONLY

COST: IN ADVANCE (OVER \$50.00)

ESTIMATE _____

- 50% _____

AMOUNT DUE \$ _____

DATE AVAILABLE: _____

FINAL ACCOUNT:

MAILING _____

LABOR _____

_____ COPIES @ _____

TOTAL _____

(-) DEPOSIT _____

Diane Lyon

From: Scott Minkoff <scott@voteamerica.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 8, 2024 1:46 PM
To: Diane Lyon
Subject: Re: Permanent Ballot List Questions

Diane,

Thank you for your prompt response.

Take care,
Scott

On Thu, Feb 8, 2024 at 1:34 PM Diane Lyon <DLyon@cityofclare.gov> wrote:

Permanent Ballot List	359
Permanent Absentee Application List	No option to print this list so zero is the answer
Total Registered Voters	2,447

Diane Lyon, City Clerk

Clare City Hall

202 W. Fifth St.

Clare, MI 48617

Phone: (989) 386-7541 x106

Fax: (989) 386-4508

Email: dlyon@cityofclare.gov

City Hall office hours Monday -Thursday 7:00am-5:30pm

From: Scott Minkoff <scott@voteamerica.com>

Sent: Thursday, February 8, 2024 12:30 PM

To: Elections <Elections@cityofclare.gov>

Subject: Permanent Ballot List Questions

Hello,

I am a researcher at VoteAmerica, a nonpartisan voting and democracy organization. One of our goals for this year is to help get voters in Michigan signed up for the Permanent Ballot List. As part of that process, we are checking whether the lists we have align with those of election offices in the state. Are you able to tell me how many people Clare has on each of the following lists?

Permanent Ballot List

Permanent Absentee Application List

Total Registered Voters

Please don't hesitate to email if you have any questions or concerns. Knowing these numbers would be a big help.

Thanks,
Scott Minkoff

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Scott L. Minkoff, PhD
Associate Professor, Dept of Political Science, SUNY New Paltz (on leave AY 2023-24)
Research Fellow, VoteAmerica
scottminkoff.com
voteamerica.com

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[Unsubscribe](#)

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Scott L. Minkoff, PhD
Associate Professor, Dept of Political Science, SUNY New Paltz (on leave AY 2023-24)
Research Fellow, VoteAmerica
scottminkoff.com

From: Michigan Bureau of Elections <MISOS@public.govdelivery.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 1, 2024 4:40 PM
To: Diane Lyon
Subject: 2/1/24 News Update - Early voting EPB setup instructions, February virtual training calendar, Election mail issues, and more

Having trouble viewing this email? [View it as a Web page.](#)



Michigan Bureau of Elections
News Update
for Election Administrators

February 1, 2024

Regular Edition News Update #2024-5



Challenger document updated with absent voter counting board changes

As part of the early voting legislation, several changes were made to the conduct of an absent voting counting board (AVCB), including the following:

- End of sequestration: Previously, with a few exceptions, an individual could not leave an AVCB after tallying began until the polls closed. Sequestration no longer applies, but it is still a felony to disclose election results before the close of polls.
- Use of devices: Previously, electronic devices capable of sending or receiving information, including phones, could not be used in an AVCB until the close of polls. Now, those devices may be used as long as they are not disruptive, but an individual may not photograph, or audio or video record, within an AVCB, with the exception of posted election results.
- The oath to be administered to election inspectors, challengers, and any other individual in attendance at an AVCB or combined AVCB, has changed to include

In this issue:

- Challenger document updated with absent voter counting board changes
- Accessibility spotlight
- Early voting EPB setup instructions
- Announcing: BOE February virtual training calendar
- Election mail issues
- Election Day Electronic Pollbook Practice Day
- Signature cure notices
- Receipt Acceptance Testing for new EV equipment
- Reminders
 - Early absent voter ballot processing deadlines
 - Election inspector appointments
 - Presidential Primary reimbursement
 - Alternate addresses for AV applications and ballots
 - Presidential Primary: contacting voters who failed to make

references to photographing and recording in the AVCB.

BOE's instructional document [*The Appointment, Rights, and Duties of Election Challengers and Poll Watchers*](#) has been updated to incorporate these statutory changes.

Early voting EPB setup instructions



Clerks coordinating an early voting region (for either single-municipality, municipal, or county agreements) are now able to configure early voting EPB devices in QVF. These steps include the following:

- Adding election inspectors as EV EPB users
- Configuring multifactor authentication
- Identifying computers as EV EPB devices
- Assigning precincts and jurisdictions to EV site tabulators
 - (Optional, only for regions with multiple tabulators in an EV site)

For instructions on adding this information, see the [“Early Voting EPB QVF Setup Guide”](#) in the eLearning Center.

Before completing these steps, clerks and EV coordinators must establish early voting regions and sites in the “Early Voting” module under “Elections” in QVF. For instructions on setting up the regions and entering sites and hours, see the [“Early Voting Region QVF Setup Guide”](#) in the eLearning center.

All of these steps must be completed prior to accessing the early voting EPB during the early voting period. Please note that, unlikely the **Election Day** EPB, the **Early Voting** EPB does not require software or file download. Similar to QVF, the Early Voting EPB is accessed through a browser with a secure connection. Information about using the Early Voting EPB will be shared in the training sessions.

a ballot selection



Accessibility spotlight

BOE is continuing to feature a series of videos, events, links, and articles designed to increase familiarity with general accessibility requirements and best practices.

As election officials, it is critical that we support all individuals' right to vote and provide the necessary resources to help voters feel more engaged and confident.

We believe that this series will be educational and help us all continue to ensure that everyone can vote privately and independently whether they vote at a polling place or at home. We encourage you to review the previous accessibility spotlights and use these videos in your trainings.

In our eighth installment, we are featuring ADA guidelines for polling places. This article is prepared by the U.S. Department of Justice Civil Rights Division. It focuses on Polling Place Accessibility and the Americans with Disability Act. Elections officials should find this useful in completing the polling place accessibility checklist that we highlighted in an earlier installment. The article can be found here:

ada.gov/resources/polling-places-checklist/.

Reminders:



Early absent voter ballot processing deadlines

Jurisdictions wishing to process and tabulate AV ballots must have sent written notice to the Bureau of Elections by Jan. 30.

Feb. 9 - Deadline to post notice on website (if available) and in



Announcing: BOE February virtual training calendar

BOE will be hosting a number of virtual training sessions throughout February in preparation for the Presidential Primary election. All of the following events can be found in your "Events Calendar" in the eLearning Center.

Early voting EPB virtual training

BOE will be conducting multiple sessions of virtual training for the early voting electronic pollbook starting Tuesday, Feb. 6 through Friday, Feb. 9. To facilitate statewide access, this training is limited to election administrators serving as early voting supervisors or those who expect to train election inspectors to use the early voting EPB. Where possible, we encourage jurisdictions wishing to have multiple election staff participate in the training to consolidate their sign-up for the session to one administrator and viewing as a group locally. To sign up, please visit the [eLearning Center](#).

There will also be a sandbox environment for the early voting EPB for training purposes that will be available next week. We will provide more information in a future communication.

Early voting procedure virtual training

BOE will also be hosting virtual training sessions focusing on early voting site procedures on Feb. 12 and Feb. 14. Sessions will highlight early voting opening procedures, processing voters in the early voting EPB, suspending the polls and securing materials between days, closing the polls on election night, and more.

This training is intended for clerks who have not yet been trained on early voting procedures through the Proposal 2022-2 Regional Training or 2024 Train the Trainer tours. To sign up, please visit the [eLearning Center](#).

Election administrators seeking additional resources to support election inspector training programs can find an [extended training PowerPoint](#) including early voting specific procedures and procedures covering the changes in law going into effect for the Feb. 27 Presidential Primary. A recording of the BOE's virtual Train the Trainer session can be found in [eLearning](#) for viewing by interested election administrators.

clerk's office of the location, dates, hours, and number of election inspectors for AV counting place if processing and tabulating AV ballots before Election Day.

Feb. 16 - Deadline for clerks processing and tabulating AV ballots before Election Day to post revised notice of location, dates, hours, or number of election inspectors, if needed.

Feb. 19 - Cities or townships with a population of at least 5,000 may begin processing and tabulating AV ballots.

Feb. 26 - Any city or township may begin processing and tabulating AV ballots.

Election inspector appointments

Election inspectors for the February Presidential Primary must be appointed by your election commission no later than Feb. 6.

Remember: Election commission meetings are subject to the Open Meetings Act, and formal action must be taken to appoint election inspectors (including receiving board inspectors and AVCB inspectors).

Presidential Primary reimbursement

Immediately after the Presidential Primary, county and local clerks may electronically submit a reimbursement form for expenses attributable to the Feb. 27, 2024 Presidential Primary. To prepare, clerks should review our [Reimbursement Guidelines for the 2024 Presidential Primary](#) document, which is now available in eLearning. Please watch for future News Updates with more information, along with links to worksheets and the online reimbursement claim form. In order to be reimbursed, claim forms must be received by May 27, 2024.



Election mail issues

If you experience a delay, mail being held because of a billing issue, or other problem with United States Postal Service delivering election mail to your office, please submit this issue to ElectionMail.org using the following form: <https://electionmail.org/report>.

After doing so, if you could forward your confirmation email to MDOS-EASupport@michigan.gov, this will assist BOE in following up with USPS on the issue



Election Day Electronic Pollbook Practice Day

BOE staff will be available on Feb. 13 and Feb. 15 in Election Day EPB Practice Day sessions. Clerks can join the virtual meeting space at any point during the sessions for guidance in preparing and using the Election Day electronic pollbook before, during, and after Election Day. To sign up, please visit the [eLearning Center](#). Again, please note that this is for the **Election Day** EPB. For information about training on the **Early voting** EPB, refer to the other articles in the News Update.

Signature cure notices

As described in the Oct. 12, 2023, News Update, voters have until 4 p.m. on the fourth day before Election Day to cure a signature deficiency on an AV ballot **application** and 5 p.m. on the third day after Election Day to cure a signature deficiency on an AV ballot **return envelope**. BOE has updated the [Absent Voter Ballot Application Signature Cure Notice](#) and the [Absent Voter Ballot Return Envelope Signature Cure Notice](#) templates to incorporate early voting and



Alternate addresses for AV applications and ballots

When clerks' offices receive requests that an Absent Voter Ballot Application, a Ballot Selection Form, or an Absent Voter Ballot be sent to an address *other than* the voter's permanent mailing address, it is important to record this as an *alternate* address in QVF, rather than a permanent mailing address. If a new permanent mailing address is inadvertently updated in QVF, this also updates the driver's license file, triggering an update to the driver record and a notification to the voter that their residential or mailing address may have changed. If the mailing address provided by the voter is temporary for the immediate election, it is important to follow the guidance provided in [QVF Manual Chapter 6 Absent Voter Tracking](#) or the following [Quick Guide: Adding Alternate Addresses for AV Applications and AV Ballots](#). If a voter contacts you to say they received a notice from the Secretary of State and they did not intend to update their permanent mailing address, please check the voter's record, remove the permanent mailing address that was entered in error, and follow the instructions in the manuals above to enter the temporary mailing address in the correct location.

Presidential Primary: contacting voters who failed to make a ballot selection

Jan. 18 was the 40th day before the Feb. 27 Presidential Primary election, marking the start of the period in which clerks are required to reach out to permanent mail ballot voters who have not yet made a ballot selection. Michigan Election Law does not specify when the contacting of voters must be concluded. In order for clerks to satisfy this statutory requirement, for this election cycle, we believe the best practice would be to ensure all follow-up communications are conducted by Feb. 13, which is the effective date of the legislation and would give voters a final opportunity to

the new spoilage deadline, and those templates are available on eLearning.

You may also refer to BOE's [Signature Verification Training](#) and [Signature Verification and Voter Notification](#) document for guidance on signature matching.



Receipt Acceptance Testing for new EV equipment

Just a reminder, as EV equipment is being delivered by vendors, Receipt Acceptance

Testing is a county/jurisdiction responsibility and should be performed within 15 days of delivery. Some vendors may have an equipment checklist to help; however, the following procedures should be performed on all newly received equipment from the EV equipment purchase, including tabulators, VATs and ballot on demand (BOD). Acceptance testing will consist of accuracy tests as prescribed under the Electronic Voting System Promulgated Rules, Mich. Admin. Code R 168.771 et seq., and the standard test deck processes. It is recommended a primary or general election be used; however, a demo election provided by the vendor may also be used. Acceptance Testing is a responsibility of the county/jurisdiction and should not be performed by the vendor. Vendors can assist as needed but the actual testing needs to be done by the county/jurisdiction. Receipt Acceptance Testing has two parts outlined below.

1) Physical inspection

- Review all equipment for any damage that may have occurred during transport.
- Verify all the cords, media, peripherals, etc. were included.

2) Testing of equipment

- For tabulators, Standard Logic and Accuracy Testing procedures, including a test deck, should be run and verified on the equipment. Vendors, in cooperation with counties, need to make sure locals have the programming they need for acceptance testing.
- For VATs, set up equipment and make sure it performs as expected. Vendors, in

make a selection in time for ballots to be mailed and return.

Additionally, Michigan Election Law does not require all methods of communication (phone, email, text, mail) to be used at the same time. For example, if it is more efficient to email and text voters first, and follow up with phone calls and mail to those voters who have not responded, this would be an acceptable option. Clerks are also not required to use personal resources to communicate with voters if no municipal resources are available.

In this outreach, clerks can also direct voters to Michigan.gov/Vote to make their ballot selection. The Michigan Voter Information Center now includes a "[Submit ballot selection form online](#)" link for permanent mail ballot voters.

Finally, if permanent mail ballot voters still do not respond and make a ballot selection, and the jurisdiction has a local-only ballot available, the municipal clerk must send those voters a local-only ballot along with a notice that (1) they are receiving this ballot because they did not make a ballot selection and (2) the process by which they can still vote in the Presidential Primary. This notice is available in eLearning under "[Presidential Primary Ballot Selection Form – Local Ballot Notice.](#)" We recommend that these ballots be sent to voters by Feb. 16, so that voters who do wish to vote in the Presidential Primary can vote at their early voting sites. For more information on accommodations for permanent ballot voters specific to this election, refer to the "[Permanent Ballot Voters for the Presidential Primary](#)" guide in eLearning. For guidance determining which permanent ballot voters have not yet made a ballot selection, refer to the "[Quick Guide: Presidential Primary Ballot Selection Form Report.](#)"

Helpful Links



cooperation with counties, need to make sure locals have the programming they need for acceptance testing. It is required that you duplicate some Test Deck ballots with the VAT and ensure they tabulate properly.

- For BOD, set up equipment and make sure it performs as expected. Select random ballot styles and make sure they print correctly. It is also required that you replace some of the tabulator Test Deck ballots with ballots created from the BOD system to ensure they tabulate properly. NOTE: Printers which come with the BOD system should only be used for BOD purposes and should never be used for any other printing purposes.

The [Voting System Receipt/Acceptance Form](#) needs to be completed and signed by each jurisdiction receiving EV equipment indicating the equipment is in working condition and is performing as expected. The form has a section to indicate the total number of each equipment type received for the Receipt Acceptance Testing process. The completed signed forms can be emailed to BOEOperations@Michigan.gov

Questions regarding testing procedures should be directed to David Tarrant, Bureau of Elections, at (517) 335-3230 or by e-mail at tarrantd2@michigan.gov.



Questions? Please contact the Bureau of Elections at 1-800-292-5973 or elections@michigan.gov.

The Bureau of Elections News Update will always be sent to the Clerk and Deputy Clerk email accounts. If other election administrators would like to receive this newsletter as well use the Subscribe link below to have it sent directly to another email account.

It is recommended that you add misos@govsubscriptions.michigan.gov and MISOS@public.govdelivery.com to your safe senders list.



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STATE OF MICHIGAN
JOCELYN BENSON, SECRETARY OF STATE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
LANSING

February 12, 2024

Dear Clerks and Election Directors:

The Bureau of Elections is aware that clerks have received documents from individuals seeking to challenge the registrations of Michigan voters under Section 512 of the Michigan Election Law, MCL 168.512. This letter describes the formal elements required for a valid voter registration challenge and the requirements that must be followed before certain voter registrations can be cancelled because a voter may have changed residence. In summary:

- All voter registration challenges under MCL 168.512 must meet formal requirements for the challenge to be processed:
 - Submitted by registered voter in the municipality of the voter challenged;
 - Submitted to the municipal clerk;
 - A written, notarized affidavit for each voter challenged;
 - Grounds of ineligibility stated for each voter challenged;
 - Not made indiscriminately and without good cause, or for the purpose of harassment.
- For challenges made to a voter's residency under MCL 168.512, on grounds of reliable information that an individual *may* have changed residency:
 - Clerk must review the information and determine if the information is reliable;
 - Clerk must send notice that complies with the notice requirements of MCL 168.509aa and the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA);
 - Voter must not be cancelled unless either the voter confirms the voter has changed residency or the voter does not respond to the notice and does not vote during the period of two federal general elections following the notice.

Formal requirements for a voter registration challenge

In order for a clerk to consider a voter registration challenge, the challenge must be formally valid, which includes jurisdictional limitations. First, a challenge to a voter registration in a municipality must be submitted "to the clerk of that municipality." MCL 168.512. Only city and township clerks can consider voter registration challenges and only to voters within their jurisdiction. Second, the challenger must be an "elector of the municipality"; i.e., an individual who is registered to vote in the same municipal jurisdiction as the challenged voter. MCL 168.512.

A voter registration challenge must be in the form of a "written affidavit" corresponding to each individual voter challenge. MCL 168.512. An affidavit is a written statement of fact that is

verified by oath or affirmation.¹ An affidavit must be notarized.² Additionally, as further explained in my prior letter from July 2022,³ an individual may not submit a single challenge to multiple registered voters within a single affidavit. Specifically, an “elector may challenge the registration of any registered elector by submitting to the clerk ... a written affidavit that such elector is not qualified to vote, which affidavit shall specify the grounds upon which the challenged elector is disqualified.” MCL 168.512 (emphases added).

In the emphasized language, this section uses the singular, rather than the plural. A challenger can make an individual challenge against an “elector,” and made with regard to “such elector”; that is, an individualized challenge to a single voter, not a mass challenge to multiple voters. If an individual wishes to challenge multiple voters’ registrations, the individual must provide a separate notarized affidavit corresponding to each voter challenged.

The written affidavit must also “specify the grounds upon which the challenged elector is disqualified.” MCL 168.512 (emphases added). A challenger must specify the grounds for the challenge because challenges cannot be made “indiscriminately and without good cause[.]” MCL 168.512. Therefore, a challenger must swear in an affidavit that the individual does not meet one of the qualifications for registration in Michigan and the jurisdiction (age, citizenship, residency). This will be discussed in greater detail below.

Upon receipt of a formally sufficient challenge, the clerk must send the challenged voter the challenge by registered or certified mail and the challenged voter has 30 days to indicate eligibility by appearing before the clerk and taking an oath or by submitting a notarized affidavit.

Attempted challenges citing reliable information of a possible change of residency

Even if it comes in the form of a sworn affidavit, an MCL 168.512 challenge that cites reliable information indicating that a voter *may* have changed voting residence outside of the jurisdiction cannot result in an immediate cancellation if the voter does not respond within the 30 days after a notice is sent under MCL 168.512. Rather, reliable information that a voter may have changed residence triggers more recently enacted statutory requirements under the Michigan Election Law, including action by the clerk to determine that the information is reliable, formal notice under the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA), and a two-federal election waiting period before cancelling a voter’s registration unless a voter personally confirms the move.

Both state and federal law have separate provisions governing the method by which systematic, large scale voter list maintenance activities, as well as removals based on third-hand information indicating a voter may have moved, are conducted. Specifically, MCL 168.509aa provides: “a clerk may use change of address information supplied by the United States Postal Service or other reliable information received by the clerk that identifies registered electors whose addresses *may* have changed as provided in this section.” (Emphasis added). The section further provides that if the clerk receives such information, the clerk first provides an NVRA confirmation notice to the voter. If the voter confirms the move, the voter’s registration may be cancelled immediately. Otherwise, the voter can be cancelled only after failing to respond to

¹ See *Wood v Bediako*, 272 Mich App 558, 562-563 (2006). See also Michigan Judicial Institute, Handbook of Legal Terms, <https://www.courts.michigan.gov/4a838f/siteassets/offices/mji/resources-for-trial-court-staff/holt.pdf>.

² See *Detroit Leasing Co v City of Detroit*, 269 Mich App 233, 236 (2005).

³ Attached for reference.

the notice and failing to engage in voting activity for a period of two federal elections following the notice.

This section of the Michigan Election Law mirrors the NVRA. 52 USC 20507. Thus, both state and federal law specifically require this notice, confirmation, and waiting period process prior to cancelling voters based on the receipt of reliable, but third-hand, information indicating that the voter *may* have changed their voting residence. Only after the residency change is determined following the required legal process – confirmation from the voter or the elapsing of the required two-federal election waiting period – can the clerk cancel the voter registration based on a change of residency.

For this reason, if a clerk receives a challenge under Section 512 based on third-hand information, such as mail returned as undeliverable or a claim that a voter’s name appears on a United States Postal Service list, the clerk must not bypass the requirements of Section 509aa and the NVRA. In this situation, the clerk can independently verify that the voter’s name appears on a list – for example, the clerk can conduct their own review of United States Postal Service data or election mail returned undeliverable – and then begin the notice and two-federal election waiting period process. However, this process must be followed before cancellation to comply with state and federal law.

The same is true if a challenge is based on the claim that the challenger conducted a house-to-house “canvass” or purports to have been told by a resident of a household that the voter is a former resident who no longer lives in the house. This is third-hand information indicating that an individual may have changed their voting residency. As with presence on a United States Postal Service list, voter list maintenance based on a house-to-house canvass requires the notice and two-federal election waiting period be followed before a cancellation can occur. See MCL 168.509dd(3)(a).

State and federal law require these protections when someone *may* have changed residency because of the possibility that a voter, despite some initial reliable evidence indicating a move, may still maintain voting jurisdiction in Michigan. For example, an individual may have changed their mailing address because they are temporarily out of state for work, school, or military service, but still maintain their voting residence in Michigan. Additionally, military and overseas voters maintain the right to vote in Michigan at their residence listed in the Qualified Voter File, even if they no longer physically reside at that address. MCL 168.769a(4). For this reason, even if a current resident of a house believes that the “former” resident no longer lives there, that individual may still be qualified to vote. Following state and federal legal requirements ensure that these voters’ registrations are not improperly cancelled without sufficient notice and opportunity to demonstrate voting residency.

The Michigan Election Law provides for this election waiting period even in the event that the voter is challenged. MCL 158.509cc provides:

If a clerk does not independently determine that a challenged voter is qualified to vote or if the challenged voter does not respond to the challenge or fails to prove in his or her response to the challenge that he or she is qualified to vote during the period beginning on the date of the notice of challenge under this act and ending on the first business day immediately *following the second November general election that is held after the date of the notice*, the clerk shall cancel the registration of the voter and remove his or her name from the registration record of the city or township. [MCL 168.509cc(2) (emphasis added).]

This notice and waiting period mirrors the process for voters who may have changed address outside of the jurisdiction based on reliable information.

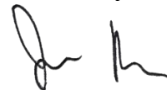
Thus, challenges to voters based on the claim that they are no longer residents of a jurisdiction do not trigger the immediate cancellation provision under MCL 168.512. Rather clerks may review the information and, following the clerk's own independent determination that reliable information exists that the voter *may* have changed residence, initiate the notice and two-federal election waiting period requirements of federal law. Residency-based challenges would result in immediate cancellation after 30 days only when a formally valid, sworn, and notarized affidavit asserts that the challenger has first-hand knowledge that a registered voter is no longer a resident of the jurisdiction. Such a situation would only occur when a challenger is in regular contact with the challenged voter and can credibly assert that the challenged voter is no longer a resident for voting purposes. Again, if the challenger merely can assert that they are aware of reliable information that a voter may have changed residency, the two-federal election waiting period must be observed.

Finally, please note that many voters challenged on the basis of residency may already have a “verify” or “challenged” inactive status if the municipality or state has received initial reliable evidence of a move outside the jurisdiction (which could include United States Postal Service data, returned mail, a surrendered driver's license, registering in another state, or other information). When the registrations are restored to their prior status, they will remain on inactive status, and will be cancelled following the second federal election after notice was sent to the voter unless they demonstrate residency by responding to the notice or engaging in voting activity.⁴ There are currently more than 500,000 registered voters slated for potential future cancellation under these procedures.⁵

If your jurisdiction is aware of any voters who have been improperly cancelled based on a voter registration challenge under MCL 168.512, please restore their voter registration to its prior status (active, verify, or challenge, as appropriate) in the Qualified Voter File. If a voter has personally confirmed to your office that the voter has changed their residence outside of the jurisdiction, the registration can remain cancelled. If you sent the voter mail that was returned as undeliverable, and the voter is not already on “verify” or “challenge” status, you should send the voter a NVRA notice as provided above.

Thank you very much for your attention to this matter. Please contact the Bureau of Elections if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Jonathan Brater
Director of Elections

Attachment

⁴ For more information, see <https://www.michigan.gov/sos/elections/voting/voters/voter-registration-cancellation-procedures>.

⁵ <https://mVIC.sos.state.mi.us/VoterCount/Index>.



STATE OF MICHIGAN
JOCELYN BENSON, SECRETARY OF STATE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
LANSING

July 29, 2022

Dear Clerks and Election Directors:

Clerks have contacted the Bureau of Elections regarding emails sent by a third-party group attempting to “challenge” voters who received absent voter ballots for the upcoming election. As you know, clerks verify the registration of voters prior to issuing absent voter ballots. These emails do not constitute permissible challenges and clerks should not reject or challenge ballots on the basis of these emails.

Challenges – whether to a voter’s registration or to a voter attempting to cast a ballot – cannot be submitted in this format. Challenges to a voter’s eligibility at the polling place must be made at the time the voter is applying to vote, and a pre-election challenge to a voter’s registration must be made at the individual voter level, not in batches of names on a spreadsheet (MCL 168.512).

Even if they were not formally invalid, the specific reasons for the “challenges” listed in the emails sent to clerks are impermissible bases for challenges. The presence of a voter’s address on the National Change of Address (NCOA) database does not eliminate voting residency. A voter may temporarily receive mail at an address other than the address at which they are registered to vote. Voters may move to another address for a limited duration – for example for college, military service, or employment – and request that their mail be sent to that that address. Although a clerk’s *independent* verification (not a third-party’s claim) that a voter is on the NCOA list may be used as initial reliable evidence that a voter *might* have changed voting residency, the registration is not cancelled until the voter has failed to respond to a confirmation notice and has failed to vote for two federal elections.

Challenging on the basis of a voter’s inactive status is also impermissible. Voters may be inactive for a variety of reasons, including having not voted in the past 6 years. The inactive voter designation alone does not cancel a voter’s registration, and inactive voters are eligible to vote. (MCL 168.509r).

The fact that the Qualified Voter File includes a placeholder date (for example 01/01/1900) for a voter’s effective registration date, because the actual date predates the modern Qualified Voter File or is unknown, does not affect that voter’s eligibility and is not a valid basis for a challenge.

Challenges made in the polling place must be based on one of four permissible bases: the person is not registered to vote; the person is less than 18 years of age; the person is not a United States citizen; the person is not a 30-day resident of city or township in which they are attempting to vote as of election day.

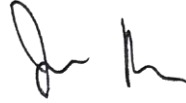
Challenges made to voter registrations must be submitted in the form of a written affidavit. (MCL 168.512). Upon receipt of that affidavit, the clerk notifies the challenged voter of the challenge and the challenged voter has 30 days to indicate eligibility by oath or affidavit.

July 29, 2022

Page 2

An emailed spreadsheet of names of voters does not comply with either of those statutory requirements. These “challenges” are thus impermissible and should not be accepted. Please do not hesitate to contact the Bureau with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jonathan Brater', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jonathan Brater, Director
Bureau of Elections

From: Michigan Secretary of State <MISOS@govsubscriptions.michigan.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, February 13, 2024 3:32 PM
To: Diane Lyon
Subject: NEWS RELEASE: Two weeks before Election Day, absent voter ballots already cast in Presidential Primary are up 67% over 2020



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Feb. 13, 2024
Contact: Cheri Hardmon
(517) 643-7236

Two weeks before Election Day, absent voter ballots already cast in Presidential Primary are up 67% over 2020

Citizens can still register to vote at their local clerk's office until 8 p.m. on Election Day

LANSING, Mich. – With two weeks left before Michigan’s Feb. 27 Presidential Primary, more than 600,000 voters have already cast their vote and submitted their absentee ballot to be counted – a 67% increase over the same time in 2020.

Absentee ballot requests also continue to outpace those in the 2020 Presidential Primary. Two weeks before Election Day, absentee ballot requests are up 71% over the same time in 2020. An updated breakdown of absentee ballot numbers by jurisdiction is [available online](#)

	14 Days Before Election Day (Feb. 13, 2024)	14 Days Before Election Day (Feb. 25, 2020)
Number of applications received	1,343,481	781,919
Number of ballots issued	1,166,980	781,019
Number of completed ballots returned	605,814	362,409

Voters who still have their absentee ballot should hand deliver it to their local clerk’s office or secure ballot drop box to avoid postal delays. Voters can find their clerk’s office and ballot drop box locations at [Michigan.gov/Vote](#). Absentee ballots can only be returned to drop boxes within the voter’s jurisdiction. All absentee ballot return envelopes must be signed by the voter with a signature matching the signature the clerk has on file with the voter’s registration. Ballots must be received by clerks no later than 8 p.m. on Election Day to be counted. Voters who have already submitted their absentee ballot can track it at [Michigan.gov/Vote](#) to ensure it has been received.

Eligible Michiganders who still need to register to vote or update their registration must now do so in person. Under Michigan law, online and mail registration is not permitted within 14 days of an election. Those registering in person may request, complete, and submit an absentee ballot in the same visit to their clerk's office.

Those wishing to vote in person in the Presidential Primary can do so at an [early voting site](#) [Saturday, Feb. 17 through Sunday, Feb. 25](#) or at their polling place on Election Day from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Information about early voting, including locations and hours of early voting sites, is available at [Michigan.gov/EarlyVoting](#).

For more information about Michigan elections visit [Michigan.gov/Vote](#).

###

[Manage Subscriptions](#) | [Unsubscribe All](#) | [Help](#)

STAY CONNECTED:



This email was sent to dlyon@cityofclare.org using GovDelivery Communications Cloud on behalf of: Michigan Secretary of State · 430 W. Allegan Street · Lansing, MI 48918 · 1-888-767-6424



January 26, 2024

City of Clare
202 W. Fifth Street
Clare, MI 48617-1490

Re: Charter Communications – Upcoming Changes

Dear Franchise Official:

Spectrum Mid-America, LLC (“Spectrum”), is noticing its customers that on January 1, 2024 *WJRT 3 Circle TV* located on Spectrum Channel 193 rebranded to **theGrio** on the Clare, MI channel lineup serving your community.

Should you have any questions about this change, please feel free to contact me at (906) 553-7866.

Sincerely,

Joan Movrich

Joan Movrich
Manager, Government Affairs – Michigan
Charter Communications



February 2, 2024

T1 P1 81 *****AUTO**ALL FOR AADC 480
City Of Clare
202 W. Fifth Street
Clare, MI 48617-1490



Re: Charter Communications - Upcoming Changes

Dear Franchise Official:

Spectrum Mid-America, LLC ("Spectrum"), is making its customers aware of the upcoming changes to the Clare, MI channel line up serving your community.

- On or around March 4, 2024, Spectrum will launch carriage of **Newsmax (HD)** on Select Packages, channel 177.
- On or around February 1, 2024, five *Music Choice* services were rebranded:
 - *Music Choice Dance/EDM* located on Spectrum Channels 905 & 1903 will become **Music Choice Dance**.
 - *Music Choice Indie* located on Spectrum Channels 906 & 1904 will become **Music Choice 60s**.
 - *Music Choice Metal* located on Spectrum Channels 916 & 1914 will become **Music Choice Yacht Rock**.
 - *Music Choice Teen Beats* located on Spectrum Channels 924 & 1923 will become **Music Choice Teen Hits**.
 - *Music Choice Musica Urbana* located on Spectrum Channels 938 & 1937 will become **Music Choice Relaxing Vibes**.
- On or around February 28, 2024, *Hallmark Drama* on Spectrum Channel(s) 179, will be rebranded to **Hallmark Family**.
- On or around March 6, 2024, *Hallmark Movies & Mysteries* on Spectrum Channel(s) 94 & 124, will be rebranded to **Hallmark Mystery**.
- On or around March 25, 2024, *AXS TV* on Spectrum Channel 820, will be rebranded to **Anthem**.
- TV Japan has notified us that it will discontinue programming on or around March 31, 2024. Accordingly, Spectrum will cease carriage on channels 399, 880, & 2587.

Should you have any questions about this change, please feel free to contact me at (906) 553-7866.

Sincerely,

Joan Movrich
Manager, Government Affairs - Michigan
Charter Communications

JOHN R. MOOLENAAR
2ND DISTRICT, MICHIGAN

HOUSE COMMITTEE
ON APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEES ON

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT,
FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND
RELATED AGENCIES

LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,
EDUCATION AND RELATED AGENCIES

FINANCIAL SERVICES AND GENERAL
GOVERNMENT

SELECT COMMITTEE ON

STRATEGIC COMPETITION BETWEEN THE
UNITED STATES AND THE CHINESE
COMMUNIST PARTY

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2204

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
246 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-3561
FAX: (202) 225-9679

CALEDONIA OFFICE:
8980 NORTH RODGERS COURT SE
SUITE H
CALEDONIA, MICHIGAN 49316
(616) 528-7100

CLARE OFFICE:
431 NORTH McEWAN STREET
CLARE, MICHIGAN 48617
(989) 802-6040

February 1, 2024


Mr. Patrick Humphrey
Mayor
City of Clare
207 West 5th Street
Clare, Michigan 48617

Dear Patrick,

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the City of Clare on receiving grants through the USDA Rural Development Program. It is my understanding the incentives will be used to acquire a new law enforcement vehicle and replacement equipment for the police department's fleet. This is great news!

Again, congratulations and best wishes for continued success. If I may ever be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



JOHN MOOLENAAR
Member of Congress

JM/kw

Diane Lyon

From: Michigan Municipal League <jappleberry@mml.org>
Sent: Wednesday, February 7, 2024 11:46 AM
To: Diane Lyon
Subject: MML Insurance Boards Announce 2024 Member Dividends



Michigan Municipal League Insurance Boards Announce 2024 Member Dividends

The Michigan Municipal League Workers' Compensation Fund and Liability & Property Pool will issue dividends totaling \$16.3 million to member communities in 2024, benefiting almost 1,000 Michigan cities, villages, counties, townships, and other public entities.

The Fund and Pool are owned and governed by their member organizations—including yours!

Members of the Workers' Compensation Fund will receive about \$14 million in dividends. Fund members have received a total of \$63.2 million in dividends over the previous five years, corresponding to about 37 percent of member premiums during the same period.

Members of the Liability & Property Pool will receive about \$2.3 million in dividends upon coverage renewal. Over the previous five years, Pool members have received a total of \$9.9 million in dividends, representing about 8 percent of member premiums during the same period.

"These dividend payments demonstrate just one benefit of member-owned programs like the Fund and the Pool," said Michael Forster, Director of Risk Management Services at the League. "When our members work diligently to

reduce risks and improve safety, the resulting savings in claims expenses are returned to them in the form of dividends.”

The Michigan Municipal League is dedicated to inspiring positive change for Michigan’s communities. For more than 100 years, the League has sought to represent, inspire, and educate its members through legislative and legal advocacy, redevelopment and civic innovations assistance, grants, trainings, conferences, resources, self-insurance pools, and risk management loss control.

Contact: Michael Forster, Director, Risk Management Services; 734-669-6340 or mforster@mml.org.

MML Liability & Property Pool Directors

Chair: Dave Post
Manager
Village of Hillman

Robert E. Clark
Mayor
City of Monroe

Dan Swallow
Manager
City of Tecumseh

Thad Beard
Manager
City of Rockford

Sue Osborn
Mayor
City of Fenton

Dan Gilmartin (Ex Officio)
Executive Director/CEO
Michigan Municipal League

George Bosanic
Manager
City of Greenville

Brenda Stumbo
Supervisor
Ypsilanti Charter Township

MML Workers’ Compensation Fund Trustees

Chair: Adam Smith
Manager/Municipal
Executive
City of Grand Ledge

Bridget Dean
Mayor
City of Berkley

Devin Olson
Manager
City of Munising

Vice Chair: Lee Kilbourn
Mayor
City of Auburn

Maureen Donker
Mayor
City of Midland

David Tossava
Mayor
City of Hastings

Brian Boggs
City Councilmember
City of Durand

Juan Ganum
Manger
City of Bridgman

Dan Gilmartin (Ex Officio)
Executive Director/CEO
Michigan Municipal League

Victor Cardenas
Manager
City of Novi

Kevin Klynstra
Mayor
City of Zeeland



Michigan Municipal League | 1675 Green Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48105

[Unsubscribe dlyon@cityofclare.org](mailto:dlyon@cityofclare.org)

[Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by jappleberry@mml.org



Free Drive-Through Mobile Food Distribution

Greater Lansing Food Bank- Clare County

Saturday - March 2, 2024

Registration: Starts at 9:00 a.m.

Distribution: Starts at 10:00 a.m.

Clare County Transit Building

1473 Transportation Dr., Harrison, MI 48625

Please Note:

- **Distribution will be a single lane pick up, so wait time may be extended**
- Food will be placed in your trunk/hatchback, so please make room in advance.
- Please stay in your vehicle for registration and food distribution.
- Restrooms will NOT be available.
- If you are not feeling well, please have someone pick up food for you.
- Everyone who is in need of food are welcome to participate.

For more information contact:

Clare County Food Facebook page or

Greater Lansing Food Bank at:

www.greaterlansingfoodbank.org,

GLFoodBank1 (on Facebook) or call 517/908-3680

The Greater Lansing Food Bank - Clare County Food

is an equal opportunity provider

CITY OF CLARE MARCH BOARD OF REVIEW

The March Board of Review will meet at
 Clare City Hall, 202 W. Fifth Street, Clare MI 48617

March 5, 2024 (2:00 pm) = Organizational Meeting – No Appeals

March 11, 2024 (9:00 am – 3:00 pm) = Appeal Hearing

March 12, 2024 (2:00 pm – 5:00 pm and 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm) = Appeal Hearing

If you have questions about your Tax Assessment Change Notice or wish to schedule an appointment, you may contact the City Assessor’s Office at 989-424-4066 or 517-940-2823, or email Assessor@cityofclare.gov.

If you do not make an appointment, you may have to wait for an available time. Residents and non-residents may protest by letter, the written appeal must be received prior to 5:00 pm, March 12th, 2024. Appeals delivered via email will not be accepted, please drop it off or mail it to City of Clare, 202 W Fifth St., Clare, MI 48617. Meetings are subject to the Open Meetings Act.

Ratios and Tentative Multipliers*:

Ratios and Multipliers for City of Clare					
Clare County			Isabella County		
Property Class	Ratio	Tentative Multiplier	Property Class	Ratio	Tentative Multiplier
100, Ag	N/C		100, Ag	0.4357	1.1476
200, Commercial	0.4897	1.0210	200, Commercial	0.4131	1.2104
300, Industrial	0.4628	1.0804	300, Industrial	0.4558	1.0970
400, Residential	0.4482	1.1156	400, Residential	0.4482	1.1156
500, Timber, Cutover	N/C		500, Timber, Cutover	N/C	
600, Developmental	N/C		600, Developmental	N/C	
Personal Property	0.5	1.0000	Personal Property	0.5	1

*Posted according to MCL 211.34a

American with Disabilities (ADA) Notice

The City will provide necessary, reasonable services to individuals with disabilities at the Board of Review meetings upon 5 days’ notice. Contact the City Clerk at dlyon@cityofclare.gov or (989) 424-4068 if accommodation will be needed. The City of Clare is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



Sharon Frischman, MMAO, AI-GRS
 Michigan Assessing Coalition, Inc.
 Clare City Assessor

Diane Lyon
 Clare City Clerk



CITY OF CLARE

202 West Fifth Street | Clare, Michigan 48617-1490

Office 989.386.7541 | Fax 989.386.4508

www.cityofclare.org

CITY HALL

Ph 989.386.7541
Fx 989.386.4508
www.cityofclare.org
Manager x102
Assessor x103
Clerk x106
Treasurer x107

NOTICE FOR BIDS

The City of Clare is accepting sealed bids for a new 4-wheel drive utility vehicle for wild land fire-fighting and off-road rescue. Bid Specs can be obtained by contacting Fire Chief Jim Chapman at jchapman@cityofclare.gov or calling 989-326-2263. Sealed bids should be submitted to:

UTILITY VEHICLE SEALED BID

City of Clare
202 West Fifth Street
Clare, MI 48617

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Ph 989.386.2182 or
989.386.7541 x202
Fx 989.386.4508

Sealed bids will be accepted until 1:00 pm on Monday, February 26, 2024, at which time they will be opened at Clare City Hall. The City of Clare reserves the right to accept and/or reject any and/or all bids. The City of Clare is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

UTILITY BILLING

Ph 989.386.7541 x201

W/WWT PLANT

Ph 989.386.2321
Fx 989.386.2387

Diane Lyon
Clare City Clerk

POLICE DEPT. NON-EMERGENCY

Ph 989.386.2121
Fx 989.386.0440

FIRE DEPT. NON-EMERGENCY

Ph 989.386.2151
Fx 989.386.3020

PARKS & RECREATION

Ph 989.386.7541 x213
Fx 989.386.4508

AIRPORT

Ph 989.386.0445
Fx 989.386.4508

