

ELECTION NEWS

General Election – November 3, 2009



Important Dates:

- **August 11 – 4:00 p.m. – Last Day to File Candidacy**
Candidates wishing to seek office for Mason Public School Board must file an Affidavit of Identity and a nominating petition with the City Clerk. (A \$100.00 nonrefundable fee may be filed in lieu of a petition.) Candidates wishing to seek office for Community College Trustee or District Library Board must file with the Ingham County Clerk.
- **October 5 – 5:00 p.m. ~ Close of Registration**
The last day to register to vote in the November 3, General Election.
- **October 31 - 2:00 p.m. ~ Deadline to request an absent voter ballot by mail**
Requests to have an absentee ballot mailed to you must be received by the Clerk's office before 2 p.m., October 31.
- **November 2 – 4:00 p.m. ~ Deadline to request an absent voter ballot in person**
An absentee ballot may be requested until 4:00 p.m. Monday, November 2; ballots may not leave building and must be voted at City Hall
- **November 3 ~ 7:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. – Election Day**
All precincts are located at City Hall, 201 W. Ash Street. Voters must enter by the front door; the back door will be locked and used as an exit only.

Important Information:

Photo Identification Required to Vote

Under a Michigan law passed in 1996 and upheld in July by the Michigan Supreme Court, all voters are required to show photo identification to vote at the polls. Voters without identification will be required to sign an affidavit to receive a ballot. The identification requirement does not apply to persons voting by absentee ballot.

Accepted forms of photo identification:

- Driver's license or personal identification card issued by Michigan or another state
- Federal or state government issued photo identification
- US passport
- Current student identification with photo from high school or accredited institution of higher education
- Military identification card with photo
- Tribal identification card with photo

Voter Registration

To be eligible to vote, a citizen must register at least 30 days before the election. A citizen who is 18 years of age may register to vote at the Secretary of State Office, the City Clerk's Office, or by mail. A registration form may be printed from the City website at www.mason.mi.us. A citizen who registers to vote by mail must vote in person in the first election in which he or she participates. However, overseas citizens, handicap citizens, or citizens who are 60 years of age or older are not required to vote in person the first time they vote.

Absentee Voting

A citizen that is unable to attend the polls on Election Day may request an absentee ballot. An application is available on the City website at www.mason.mi.us. A citizen must complete an application to vote absentee for each and every election held. A citizen may request in writing to be placed on a permanent absent voter list to receive an absentee application for all elections that are held. The Clerk's office will be open from 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Saturday, October 31, to process absentee ballots.

The only permissible reasons for a voter to receive an absentee ballot are as follows:

- The voter is physically unable to attend the polls without the assistance of another.
- The voter cannot attend the polls because of the tenets of their religion.
- The voter has been appointed as an election precinct inspector in a precinct other than the precinct where they reside.
- The voter is 60 years of age or older.
- The voter is expected to be absent from the community in which they are registered for the entire time the polls are open on Election Day.
- The voter cannot attend the polls because they are confined to jail awaiting arraignment or trial.

Casting a Vote

To cast a vote, a line is completed by “connecting” the ends of the arrow next to the candidate of your choice.



Voter Information Center



The Michigan Secretary of State “Voter Information Center” is an online source for one-stop election information. Michigan residents can access information on their voter registration status, find the location, get directions to their polling place, and review the ballot. Visitors can access online information on statewide candidates and ballot proposals as well as tutorials on the Optec electronic voting equipment.

For further election information, please contact the City Clerk's Office at:
(517) 676-9155