



STATE OF MICHIGAN
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
LANSING

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Michigan Bureau of Elections

Michigan election law, MCL 168.21, designates the Secretary of State as the state's "chief election officer":

"The secretary of state shall be the chief election officer of the state and shall have supervisory control over local election officials in the performance of their duties under the provisions of this act."

The Bureau of Elections was established under legislation enacted in 1951 to assist with the administration of the Secretary of State's election-related duties and responsibilities.

Major Program areas:

- 1) Election Administration
- 2) Campaign Finance
- 3) Lobbyist Disclosure
- 4) Great Seal

1) Election Administration

Michigan election system:

- One of the most decentralized in the country. The Bureau of Elections supervises and assists 83 county clerks, 280 city clerks and 1,240 township clerks - all who administer elections independently.
- 4,812 precincts statewide; the majority of jurisdictions in the state consist of a single precinct.

TOTAL PRECINCTS	# OF JURISDICTIONS
1 Precinct	989
2 Precincts	200
3-10 Precincts	260
11-20 Precincts	39
21-50 Precincts	28
Over 50 Precincts	4
Total	1,520

Major Programs:

- Qualified Voter File (QVF)
 - First developed in 1996 – national model
 - 1,032 jurisdictions with access; remaining are supported by counties
 - Voter registration, AV ballot issuance, election geography, election administration
 - Tie to Driver File
 - Active / Inactive Voters
 - Total Registered Voters: 7,361,718
 - Active: 6,299,400
 - Inactive: 1,062,318
 - Inactive = has not voted in six years or has not responded to a confirmation notice
 - Other Programs Generated from QVF:
 - Michigan Voter Information Center (MVIC) – www.michigan.gov/vote (mobile version also available)
 - Electronic creation and transmission of military/overseas ballots
 - Optical scan ballot creation / programming / test files (including ballots for accessible voting system)
 - Official Candidate Listing
 - Canvass Reporting
 - Electronic Pollbook (EPB)
 - Election Management Portal (EMP) – online AV tracking
 - Development underway for major QVF program re-write to a modernized platform with several added improvements - planned implementation in early 2018.



- Voting systems
 - Statewide – optical scan
 - Help America Vote Act – Federal funding, statewide contracts/purchase 2004-2005
 - Reaching end of life – New contracts (3 vendors) being executed now
 - County selection process
 - Implementation to begin August 2017, with complete replacement by August 2018
 - 10-year contracts
 - Combined Federal / State Funding – covers majority of 1st 5 years' cost'; remaining will be funded by counties and local cities and townships

- Education / Training for Election Officials:
 - Clerk Accreditation (new clerks) – comprehensive, two-day class
 - Continuing Education / Two-Year Re-accreditation Program – required under legislation passed in 2012; modular format, combination in-person and online training
 - Online Training Program (*Elections eLearning Center*):
 - One-stop resource for election official training
 - Majority of ongoing education components housed here
 - Over 4,000 users enrolled (clerks, deputies, other election staff)
 - Online training courses
 - Videos – dedicated YouTube channel
 - Manuals/Resources
 - Registration for in-person classes
 - Electronic data collection (post-election reports, Federal reporting requirements)
 - Pre- and post-training online assignments
 - Accreditation exercises / exams
 - Communications
 - User groups
 - Webinars / remote training
 - Tracking by individual user/clerk
 - Training Schools – in person sessions held in even years, 8-10 regional sessions for counties and larger jurisdictions that conduct Election Inspector training
 - Election Cycle – in person update in even years, one session per county for all clerks in county; covers all major election year issues (filing to canvassing)
 - Board of County Canvassers – in person session in even years, 20 regional sessions

- Technical Training
 - Qualified Voter File (QVF) – weekly, in-person small groups
 - Electronic Pollbook (EPB) – weekly, in-person small groups
 - Election Management Portal (EMP) – AV tracking, MOVE ballot issuance
 - Online (modular format), webinar options available via eLearning Center

- Electronic Pollbook (EPB)
 - Internally developed
 - Replaces traditional paper pollbook
 - Faster, more accurate voter check-in, ballot issuance, Election Night balancing, post-election voter history updates
 - Requires less staff in polling place
 - 95% of precincts statewide

- Military/Overseas Voting
 - 45-day deadline for transmitting ballots
 - E-transmittal; Hard-copy mail return
 - 16,755 military/overseas ballots cast (Nov. 2016)
 - Late-transmitted ballots: mandated extended ballot receipt deadline

- Board of State Canvassers
 - Four-member bipartisan Board responsible for certifying petitions, canvassing elections, approving new voting equipment for use in the state, and approving state/county officer recall language and petition filings
 - Secretary of State schedules and coordinates meetings

- Petition Processing – BOE receives and processes:
 - Nominating and qualifying petitions filed by candidates seeking federal and state offices
 - New political party petitions
 - Initiative and referendum petitions
 - Recall petitions filed against federal, state and county officers

- Ballot Production Standards
 - BOE publishes with clerk input
 - Ensures consistent approach
 - Updates coming: new voting system implementation

- Post-Election Audits
 - Legislation passed in 2012
 - Pilot program in 2013
 - Statewide beginning in Nov 2014
 - Close to 1,400 audits conducted thus far
 - Focus: pre-election, Election Day and post-election process verification
 - Developing plans for sampled ballot hand-count – results confirmation
 - Post-audit follow-up assignments and training (via eLearning Center)
 - State, counties may audit
 - Counties audit precincts randomly selected by state

- Major Issues: 2016 Election
 - Michigan: closest presidential margin nationally - 10,704 vote differential, 4.8 million total votes cast (0.2%)
 - Election system security – Federal designation as “critical infrastructure”
 - Statewide recount
 - Recountability standards
 - 2.1 million ballots (over 40%) recounted in 3-day period, before recount terminated by court order
 - Detroit audit

2) Campaign Finance

- Bureau of Elections oversees Secretary of State duties related to enforcement of the Campaign Finance Act and to disclosure by reviewing filings submitted by candidates, committees, and political parties.
- *Electronic Filing:* Michigan Electronic Reporting and Tracking System (MERTS) - a program which permits the electronic submission of campaign finance disclosure documents by committees registered on the state level.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE FILINGS: 2016

	Candidate Committees	Gubernatorial Committees	PACs	Parties	Ballot Questions	Totals
Active	1,498	15	1,199	246	99	3,057
Waiver*	898	7	377	107	65	1,454
No Waiver	600	8	822	139	33	1,602

*Waiver = Committee activity \$1,000 or less are not required to report.

Campaign Finance Filings: 2016 Compliance

Number of Statements Required	5,744
Percentage of Filings Received Electronically	94%
Number of Failure to File Notifications Sent	806
Number 2016 Campaign Finance reports outstanding	338
Number of Referrals to the Attorney General (Failure to File)	391

3) Lobbyist Disclosure

The Bureau of Elections is responsible for registering lobbyists and lobby agents under the Michigan Lobby Registration Act. Lobbyists are typically interest groups; lobbyist agents are the individuals and firms that represent these interest groups.

LOBBY REGISTRATION

	Lobbyist	Lobby Agents	Total
Active	1,472	1,432	2,904

Lobby Registration: 2016 Compliance

Number of Statements Required	5,808
Percentage of Filings Received Electronically	81%
Number of Failure to File Notifications Sent	257
Number of Referrals to the Attorney General (Failure to File)	78

4) Great Seal

Duties of the Office of the Great Seal include:

- Keeper of the Great Seal – affixes the State Seal to authorized items/documents and ensure its proper use.
- Accepts documents for filing from certain local and state government officials, including:
 - Boundary changes
 - Executive Orders of the Governor
 - Public Acts
- Commission Notaries: approximately 1,300 notaries public are commissioned each month. The total number of notaries public currently commissioned in the State of Michigan is over 112,629.
- Certifies the authenticity of a Michigan official's signature and the capacity that official acted in.
- Provide monthly notary public training to notaries public and the general public.