



Questions and Answers: Michigan's Presidential Primary

From the State of Michigan's Bureau of Elections

Q. Do I have to be a registered Republican or Democrat to participate in Michigan's Presidential Primary?

A. No. Michigan's Presidential Primary has been designated a closed primary. There is no political party registration requirement in Michigan Election Law. Any Michigan registered voter can participate in the primary. By law, you must make your ballot selection in writing by completing the Application to Vote/Ballot Selection Form on Election Day; or on the Absent Voter Ballot Application form if voting absentee.

Q. Why do I have to select a party ballot?

A. Michigan Election Law (MCL 168.615c) guides the conduct of the Presidential Primary. The law requires that voters indicate in **writing** which political party ballot he or she wishes to vote. This requirement only applies to Presidential Primary elections, and



**League of Women Voters
of the Grand Traverse Area**

**Serving Antrim, Benzie,
Grand Traverse, and
Kalkaska counties**

[Voter Newsletter](#)

February 2016

Volume 57, No. 2

President

Jan Warren

First Vice President

Ingrid Brophy

Membership Director

Donna Hornberger

Voter Services

Inara Kurt & Peg Townsend

Treasurer

voters will **not** be required to select a political party ballot type at other types of elections.

Q. Didn't the legislature just eliminate straight-ticket voting?

A. Yes, the legislature did eliminate straight-ticket voting. But straight-ticket voting was only an option in November General elections. A closed Presidential Primary is a very different process. You are required by law to select a Republican or Democratic party ballot to participate in the Presidential Primary.

Q. What is the difference between an Open Primary and a Closed Primary?

A. Voters in an open primary are given a ballot with a column listing each qualified party's candidates. Voters then decide which party primary they wish to participate in by voting only in the column of their party choice while in the privacy of the voting station. Voting for candidates in more than a single party's column will void the entire partisan ballot. Voters in closed primaries must state the party primary they wish to participate in before being issued a ballot. The ballot given to voters only has candidates of the party that corresponds to the voter's choice.

[Read more of the Michigan Presidential Primary Q & A.](#)



**Save the Date:
Spring Workshops from the**

Liz Messing
Secretary
Peggy Townsend
Publicity Chair
Linda Crandall
Webmaster
Mary Beeker
Voter Newsletter
Ann Geht

[Contact Us](#)
[Calendar of Events](#)
[Join the League](#)

FAST FACTS

ON MICHIGAN'S 2016 PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY



View the infographic at mlive.com.

Recent Advocacy:

In a February 9th letter to Governor Snyder, the League of Women Voters of Michigan

League of Women Voters of Michigan

Saturday, April 16, 2016, 10am-2pm
VOTE411 Training for local League VOTE411 coordinators

Saturday, April 30, 2016, 9:30am-2:30pm
Defending Democracy by Making Democracy Work
Saint Paul Episcopal Church, 218 West. Ottawa St.
Lansing, MI 48933

[Additional registration information may be found here.](#)



Q. What is the Lake Michigan Interleague?

A. This Inter-League organization is made up of 48 local Leagues within the Lake Michigan watershed and regional planning areas. In addition, the four state Leagues of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan and Wisconsin pay dues, entitling all of their individual Leagues to receive information and to take part in LWVLMR events. Each state League also appoints two delegates and two alternates to serve on the LWVLMR Board that meets quarterly.

[More information about the LWVLMR Board Michigan representatives can be found here.](#)

stated its opposition to the request for Great Lakes water withdrawal by Waukesha, WI. The League supports protections of this resource from inefficient and excessive water uses.

[Read the letter here.](#)



Copyright © 2015

Our mailing address is:

League of Women Voters of the Grand Traverse Area
P.O. Box 671
Traverse City, MI 49685-0671

Submit content or feedback to The Voter: ann.geht@gmail.com

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#)