
The City of Traverse City

GOVERNMENTAL CENTER
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Press Release for Immediate Release

*VOTERS MUST CHOOSE REPUBLICAN OR DEMOCRATIC BALLOT FOR UPCOMING
PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION: FEBRUARY 28, 2012.*

According to Public Act 163 of 2011, Michigan's lawmakers voted to require separate ballots for Republican and Democratic candidates for the upcoming Presidential Primary Election. *Therefore, it is mandatory for voters to select a preferred party ballot when filling out their Application to Vote at the polls on Election Day. **The voter will then be given either a Republican or a Democratic Party ballot.***

Additionally, a new citizenship verification question has been added to both the Application to Vote and the Absent Voter Ballot Application form. ("Are you a United States Citizen?") Beginning with the February 28, 2012 Presidential Primary Election, this will be a permanent question on both the Application to Vote and the Application for Absent Voter's Ballot.

Some other helpful notes that may be of importance to Traverse City voters are;

- Voters do not have to be a member of a political party to participate in this election.
- A voter is not opting to join a political party by voting in this election.
- No voter is able to request and/or vote both party ballots.
- By not selecting a preferred party, voters will not be able to obtain a ballot.
- Election Law requires that each voter's ballot selection information be public knowledge and available for viewing or be obtained by the public for a period of 22 months following the Presidential Primary Election; at that time the information will be destroyed.
- If a voter needs an absentee ballot, the last day to apply for one is Saturday, February 25, 2012 at 2:00 p.m. **As an alternative, voters may apply for an absentee ballot up until 4 p.m. on Monday, February 27, 2012; however, the voter must vote the ballot in the City Clerk's Office.**

If you have any further questions or concerns regarding the upcoming Presidential Primary Election, please do not hesitate to contact the City Clerk's Office at 231.922.4480 during normal business hours.

Remember, every vote counts!

Benjamin C. Marentette, CMC
City Clerk