The great election of 2018 is over and we can finally get back to doing all the other work we normally need to take care of. However, with that election, many of those election items we have completed over many years will change. Our association with the BOE will ensure all clerks know what those changes are and how it will affect the clerk’s offices throughout the state. Throughout my career there has always been six reasons for an absentee ballot and 30 days prior to an election to register. Going into effect January 2019 those are now gone and we will need to educate ourselves on how we conduct elections for those items and many other items to implement over the elections coming up. MAMC has worked with our lobbyist to try to get the best procedures and processes we could when this bill (SB 1238) was introduced as a result of Proposal 3 passage.

Offering Clerks Institute each year has become so successful that we are limiting new attendees to first year clerks and deputies to keep the classes from being too large, and so Lew can find you all. We also offer Clerking 101 for newer clerks that have so many basic topics, that I hope all newly elected clerks take advantage of these resources. All clerks will be able to glean good information at our annual conference in June and Free Education Day now in September. See our website for the IIMC Region V meeting for July for additional classes.

Thank you all for using our Forum page for your many questions, responses and concerns; this has been a valuable tool in getting out concerns (Emily), knowing what municipalities are doing, and what questions many of you have. Thank you to all those who try to help with those questions. TEAM CLERK!
IF YOU ARE NOT YET A MEMBER – COME JOIN US!

2019 MAMC Membership Applications have been coming in strong. As of January 2019, we have a total of 758 members and applications are still coming in and we hope that continues to grow!

Pass along the information to all new clerks and deputy clerks. This is an opportunity for them to be a part of a strong organization that is interested in advancing the profession, providing training and networking opportunities, and providing a collective voice for all of its members.

Vendors have the option of becoming an Associate member. These businesses and people play an important role in our jobs and abilities to function efficiently and they can benefit their business with input from our members.

HONORARY AND LIFETIME MEMBERS

Congratulations to all new honorary and lifetime members! Just a reminder that you do not need to renew your membership each year, but we would request that you keep your contact information up-to-date on the MAMC website so you can continue to receive all of the benefits of your membership.

CMMC PROGRAM AND CERTIFICATION

The CMMC Program was designed with the Michigan Clerk in mind, to offer enhanced and continued education that focuses on duties related to that of a Michigan Clerk.

A state program was discussed for years by various MAMC Boards before it became a reality and some of that discussion centered around offering continued education for local Clerks. The intent was to offer something that they could easily attend and was more affordable due to their proximity and pertained to specific duties, including Elections, which many other Clerks in other states do not handle at the local level.

The Board encourages continued education and we feel that this program is most important to the Michigan Clerks and their communities, which is why we will be revisiting the program to ensure it continues to have value for all of our members.

As a reminder, certifications expired the end of last year for Certified Michigan Municipal Clerks (CMMC) who certified in 2016, but it is never too late to renew! If your certification has lapsed, don’t worry. Keep working on earning the required 20 points from the time your last certification expired and as soon as you do, submit your documentation along with your renewal application.

Keep in mind the following changes made to the certification process and Education and Guideline requirements:

- The recertification fee was reduced to $75
- The addition of up to four (4) experience points may be used towards certification (serving as an officer on a committee/association, teaching a class at a MAMC event such as conference, masters, etc.)

Reminders are sent out annually along with the membership information, so it is important for all members to keep track of your own expiration date.

If you are not yet CMMC certified, what are you waiting for? Visit the MAMC website for more information or contact Pam Smith, Membership/CMMC Director, at 248.871-2420 or psmith@fhgov.com
It’s 5 O’Clock Somewhere

Probably feels like winter passes like molasses right now, but the 2019 MAMC Conference will be here before you know it! Conference this year is at the beautiful Radisson in downtown Kalamazoo, Michigan June 19th-21st with Clerking 101 and a Master class on June 18th, so make sure you don’t have your Jamaican vacation scheduled for then. Our work is starting to ramp up on the planning and details for the event and we have some great ideas in store for our attendees. As always networking is such a huge goal of our MAMC events, and this conference will be no exception. The mobile app will again be used to keep all the attendees in touch, informed, and help with networking with your peers, vendors, speakers, and the MAMC Board of Directors.

The Radisson is sure to be a great venue with a convenient layout for classes, heated indoor pool, four on-site restaurants, the Kalamazoo Athletic Club, and Blush, a full-service salon and spa. The proximity of the hotel to the vibrant Kalamazoo downtown will keep guests plenty entertained throughout the week. Keep watching the MAMC website (www.michiganclerks.org) and your email for more information and upcoming registration dates!

As always you can email questions, comments, suggestions, or concerns to us at cityclerk@williamston-mi.us and awit@harrison-township.org.

MAMC Website & Social Media

Rob Crawford, CMMC/CMC
Fort Gratiot Township
3rd Vice President
Newsletter/Website Chair

Check our web and Facebook pages often for news and updates. If you are sending me something to be posted please send it as an attachment in pdf. Contact me if you have any questions or suggestions.
Call for Nominations!

It’s time again to seek applications for the Board of Director terms expiring June 2019.

Calling all interested clerks and deputy clerks! Have you ever wondered how someone is elected to the MAMC Board of Directors? Applications can be found on the home page of the MAMC webpage, on the Board of Director page, and in the mailchimp email sent out on Friday, January 4, 2019.

The filing deadline is **Monday, April 1, 2019**. Applications will be accepted until **5:00 P.M.**

MAMC By-laws require the process of an annual election to install the officers to the Board.

Directors serve two year terms and must run as a candidate if they wish to be elected to another term.

3rd Vice President candidates must have served at least two years as a director in order to run for the 3rd vice president position.

The following Board seats are scheduled to be elected at the June 2019 Conference:

**Two year term:**

Director-City/Village (two seats up for election)

Director-Township/County (two seats up for election)

**One year term:**

3rd Vice President-City/Village (one seat up for election—must have served 2 years as a director to be eligible to run for office)

Please visit the Board of Directors page for additional information and to see the terms of the current Board members.

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**Financial Report for December 31, 2018**

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<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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The lame duck session saw a lot of movement with election related bills. Our lobbyist, Bill Zaagman, did a great job of recapping the changes in legislation in his Legislative Update so we thought we would share some recent happenings in the Council of Elected Officials and Legislative Committees.

The Council of Elected Officials hosted Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson at their January 16th meeting. Ms. Benson provided an update on her first few weeks in office and announced that Michigan will be officially joining the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC), a multistate partnership dedicated to the accuracy of the nation’s voter files. She is looking forward to joining the election administration community and would like to seek ways that we can collaborate in order to make sure that voters have the resources they need in order to participate fully in our process. We look forward to partnering with Secretary Benson as we continue to navigate the ever changing election process.

The Legislative Committee is currently working on updating the MAMC Legislative Priority List. This has prompted meetings with the Bureau of Elections to discuss a few items that we may want to see addressed in this legislative cycle, which includes the ever growing issue of polling location availability as well as anticipated issues with increased absentee voters. A few members are also meeting with Rep. Yaroch to share our thoughts on a bill he proposed last session. These meetings are a very positive step, as it is not often that we are included and our opinions considered prior to legislation being introduced. Let’s hope this is the first of many meetings of this nature.

We look forward to sharing updates on our progress with you. As always it is our honor to represent the MAMC members as chairs of these committees.

**REMINDERS**

- There are lots of deadlines looming for spring training opportunities:
  - Institute is March 10th-15th with a registration deadline of February 22nd
  - Master Academy is March 18th – 21st with a registration deadline of February 27th
- PLEASE NOTE FREE EDUCATION DAY IS SEPTEMBER 12TH.
- We are currently setting the Speakers and Breakout presenters for summer trainings.
- Preconference (Master’s Day and Clerking 101) is June 18th
- Conference is June 19th – 21st
Legislature Acts on Prop 3 Implementation

After the overwhelming passage of Proposal 3, Republicans quickly introduced and moved legislation to implement the measure. Senate Bill 1238, introduced by Senator Dave Robertson (R-Grand Blanc) provides guidelines for the implementation of Proposal 3 by spelling out a number of new requirements on how elections administrators are to handle voter registration moving forward, including those being submitted on Election Day. Many of the changes were necessitated to conform the Michigan Election Law to the new protections afforded voters under Proposal 3-2018. Below is a short summary of the major changes contained in bill, now Public Act 603 of 2018.

- Creates new definitions of “absent voter ballot,” which is a ballot issued to a voter through the absentee voter process and a “regular ballot,” which is a ballot issued to a voter on Election Day at a polling location.
- Reworks the post-election audit process to clarify that the audits are conducted by the county clerk under direction of the Secretary of State and that each audit must include at least one statewide race or ballot initiative.
- Prohibits SOS from transmitting the information of a person who declines to register to vote at a branch office into the QVF.
- Clarifies that qualified electors may register to vote in-person at a clerk’s office, SOS branch office, by mail or online until the 15th day before the election and that qualified electors may only register to vote in-person in the local clerk’s office from the 14th day before an election until 8 p.m. on Election Day.
- Establishes that the only person who can be issued an absentee ballot in clerk’s office on Election Day is a qualified elector who is also registering to vote at the same time. If the qualified elector proved identity and residency without presenting state driver’s license or state identification card, the ballot issued to the voter must be prepared as a challenge ballot.
- If a qualified elector registers to vote at a Secretary of State branch office in the 14-say window before an election, the SOS must provide information to the person registering to vote that they need to register at the local clerk’s office if they want to vote in the upcoming election.
- Requires clerks to provide notice in a newspaper at least 30 days prior to the election of the hours and locations for the purposes of receiving voter registrations.
- Requires the clerk or a deputy clerk to be present in the clerk’s office on election day at all times a polling precinct is open to receive and process voter registrations.
- Establishes that the deadline for a clerk to send an absentee ballot by first-class mail to a voter is 5 p.m. on the Friday before the election.
- Maintains the deadline to issue an absentee ballot to a registered elector as 4 p.m. on the day before an election.
- Changes state law to conform to Proposal 3 to require local clerks to be in their office for a minimum of 8 hours on the Saturday, the Sunday or a combination of hours on the Saturday and Sunday immediately prior to the election. Requires that at least 30 days prior to the election, the clerk shall post the hours the clerk’s office will be open on the Saturday and/or Sunday prior to the election to receive and issue absentee ballots.
- Upon approval by resolution of the governing body, the clerk may specify additional locations and hours that the clerk will be available to issue and receive absentee ballots. The additional locations must allow for challengers and must be made public at least 30 days before the election.
- Requires local clerks ensure that the QVF is current within 7 days after the election with any voters who registered to vote in-person during the 14-day period prior to an election, including voter registrations executed where the individual proved residency without presenting a state driver’s license or state identification card.

Elections Committees Named

The House and Senate have released committee assignments for the 100th Michigan Legislature and there will be a number of new faces on the committees that have jurisdiction over elections issues. In the House, Republicans maintained a lopsided 5-2 split on the 7-member panel. Rep. Aaron
Capitol Update cont.

Miller, who chaired the committee last session, will not be heading the panel this session. Instead, Rep Julie Calley (R-Portland) was named chair. Calley, entering her second term, served on the committee as vice-chair last term. Rep. Vanessa Guerra (D-Saginaw) was named minority vice-chair of the committee, a post she held last session. Reps. Guerra and Calley are the only returning members to the committee. The other members of the committee are: Representatives Jason Sheppard (R-Lambertville), Pamela Hornberger (R-Chesterfield Township), Steve Marino (R-Mt. Clemens), Brad Paquette (R-Niles), and Kara Hope (D-Delhi Township). Representatives Paquette and Hope are the only first-term members serving on the committee. Ms. Hope is the spouse of MAMC Past President Evan Hope. Former township clerk Rep. Ann Bollin (R-Brighton Township) was not named to the committee, but will serve on the House Appropriations committee.

The Senate panel also retains the lopsided 4-1 Republican split that it had last session. With former Chair Dave Robertson termed out of the Legislature, former Secretary of State Ruth Johnson—now Senator—will chair the committee with no returning members. She will is joined on the committee by first-term members of the Senate. The rest of the members include: Senators Ed McBroom (R-Vulcan), Peter Lucido (R-Shelby Township), Curt VanderWall (R-Ludington) and former Warren City Clerk Paul Wojno (D-Warren), who will serve as Minority Vice-Chair of the committee.

The committees will begin meeting in the coming weeks.

Governor Signs Bills Criminalizing Petition Fraud and Forgery

Bills addressing election-related petition and forgery fraud were enacted by Governor Snyder after overwhelmingly passing both chambers of the Legislature. The bills--House Bills 5992, 6107 and 6108--clarify Michigan Election Law to more clearly criminalize petition fraud and the forgery of signatures to petitions and other elections-related documents. The bills establish misdemeanor penalties for instances of petition falsification and felony charges for an individual who forges multiple signatures on petitions. The bills are intended to correct oversights in existing law which does not clearly identify these activities as crimes under either Act. The bills came about after a couple of court rulings determined that the Michigan Election Law included a penalty for forgery but the law itself did not define what constituted the forgery. Accordingly, these bills seek to define these crimes and ascribe appropriate penalties.

The bills are now Public Acts 620, 650 and 661 of 2018.

New Public Acts

There was a flurry of election bills enacted during the lame duck session that concluded December 28, 2019. The bills signed by outgoing Governor Rick Snyder include:

Public Act 611 of 2018: Shifts the certification of precinct delegates from the precinct to the county clerk.

Public Act 614 of 2018: Makes revisions how the compensation of county board of canvassers is set and states that the board of canvassers shall not begin the canvass later than 9 a.m. on the Thursday following the election. Additionally, the bill requires the county board of canvassers note that number of out-of-balance precincts that were not reconciled during the canvass process and clarifies that local clerks must use the electronic poll book software required by the BOE.

Public Acts 653 and 654 of 2018: Establishes that candidates for township office may pay a filing fee in lieu of submitting nomination petitions for township offices.

Public Act 382 of 2018: Amends the Michigan Election Law to require the Secretary of State to call for an expedited canvass of the Presidential election results if the unofficial results show a vote differential under 25,000 votes. Under current law, the Secretary of State may call for an expedited canvass, but it is not required. The new Act eliminates the discretion and requires that an expedited canvass be called.

Public Acts 627 and 628 of 2018: PA 627 clarifies that the filing deadline for all local offices is 4 p.m. on the fifteenth Tuesday before the election where the candidate’s name first appears on the ballot—regardless of local charter provisions. For example, if there is a primary or a runoff election, the deadline is 4 p.m. on the fifteenth Tuesday before that election. If there is no primary or runoff election, the deadline would be 4 p.m. on the fifteenth Tuesday before the general election. PA 628 amends the Community College Act to clarify the filing deadline for community college trustees is 4 p.m. on the fifteenth Tuesday before the election.
Upcoming Events

Quarterly Newsletter

Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks
120 N. Washington Sq., Suite 110A
Lansing, MI 48933

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Upcoming Events

March 10-15
MAMC Clerks Institute
Comfort Inn Hotel & Conference Center - Mt. Pleasant

March 18-21
MAMC Masters Academy
Comfort Inn Hotel & Conference Center - Mt. Pleasant

June 18
MAMC Free Education Day
Soaring Eagle - Mt. Pleasant

June 19-21
MAMC Preconference Masters & Clerking 101
Radisson Hotel - Kalamazoo

June 19-21
MAMC Annual Conference
Radisson Hotel - Kalamazoo

September 12
MAMC Free Education Day
Soaring Eagle - Mt. Pleasant