

Unofficial document; for resource purposes only

"NEWS YOU CAN USE"

April 28, 2010

(Issue # 472)

Important Notice

Polling Place Accessibility Required: Michigan election law stipulates that any and all polling place locations must be fully accessible to ensure that individuals with disabilities are able to participate in the electoral process. If a building used for a polling place location is not accessible, it must be made accessible or the polling place must be moved to a building that is accessible. **There are no exceptions.**

Polling Place Evaluations Planned: In the coming weeks, representatives from the Michigan Protection & Advocacy Service (MPAS) will be visiting polling places located throughout the state to assess the accessibility of the sites. The Michigan Department of State works in partnership with MPAS to ensure the accessibility of Michigan's polling places and administer the Polling Place Accessibility Improvement Program – a federally funded grant program which Michigan's cities and townships can use to recover the costs they incur in making their polling places accessible. If you are contacted by MPAS representatives, it is important that you extend them your full cooperation and supply any requested information in a timely manner.

Unofficial document; for resource purposes only

Compliance Goal Established: If polling place accessibility deficiencies are identified in your jurisdiction through the site evaluations conducted by MPAS, we will be contacting you to determine the course of action you intend to take to address the deficiencies. As noted above, polling places that are not accessible must be moved or upgraded to make them accessible. As further noted, funds spent to improve the accessibility of polling places can be recovered under the Polling Place Accessibility Improvement Program. To date, over \$1 million has been awarded under the grant program to cities and townships throughout the state. A new grant program application window will commence on May 10 and extend through July 30, 2010.

The Department's goal is to ensure that 100% of Michigan's polling places are fully accessible by the conduct of the November 2, 2010 general election.

Additional Information Available: City and township clerks who have any questions regarding the accessibility requirements, the polling place evaluations or the grant program are encouraged to contact David Foster of the Michigan Department of State's Bureau of Elections. Phone: (517) 373-2540. Email: FosterD2@Michigan.gov.

Complete information on the polling place accessibility grant program can be found on the Department of State's Web site www.Michigan.gov/sos. Click on "Elections in Michigan." On the Elections in Michigan page, click on "Information for Election Administrators" and scroll down to "HAVA Compliance Materials."

Unofficial document; for resource purposes only