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TO: The Honorable City Council

FROM: David Whitaker, Director
Legislative Policy Division Staff 

DATE: October 18, 2019

RE: **DEADLINE FOR BALLOT LANGUAGE**

The Legislative Policy Division was asked to confirm whether December 17, 2019, is the deadline for submission of a ballot question for the March 10, 2020, Presidential Primary. According to a schedule created by the Michigan Department of State, December 17th is the last day for ballot wording submitted by the City of Detroit to be certified by Detroit City Clerk's Office. A complete listing of all deadlines applicable to this specific Primary has been attached for your information.



STATE OF MICHIGAN
JOCELYN BENSON, SECRETARY OF STATE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
LANSING

**March 10, 2020 Presidential Primary
-- Dates and Deadlines --**

Refer to Michigan election law (MCL 168.1-992) for referenced statutory provisions.

By 4:00 p.m., November 8, 2019	Secretary of State issues a "list of the individuals generally advocated by the national news media" as potential Republican Party and Democratic Party presidential nominees. (614a)
By 4:00 p.m., November 12, 2019	State chairpersons of the Republican Party and Democratic Party submit a list to the Secretary of State of individuals their respective parties view as potential presidential nominees. (614a)
November 13, 2019	Secretary of State notifies potential presidential nominees of legal provisions relating to Michigan's presidential primary. (614a)
By December 3, 2019	Petitions to place proposals on ballot filed with county and local clerks. (646a)
By 4:00 p.m., December 13, 2019	Potential presidential nominees appearing on lists compiled by Secretary of State and state party chairpersons who do not wish to have their names printed on Michigan's presidential primary ballot or who wish to change their political party affiliation file an affidavit with the Secretary of State. (615a)
By 4:00 p.m., December 13, 2019	Individuals not listed as potential presidential nominees by Secretary of State or state party chairpersons who wish to appear on Michigan's presidential primary ballot file a nominating petition with the Secretary of State. (615a) (Petitions cannot be circulated prior to October 1, 2019. Signature requirements: Republican Party candidate: 11,398; Democratic Party candidate: 11,345).

By 4:00 p.m., December 17, 2019	Ballot wording of proposals to be presented at the presidential primary certified to proper clerk; local clerks receiving ballot wording forward to county clerk within two days. (646a)
By January 10, 2020	Final date cities and townships can establish, move or abolish a polling place for the Presidential Primary. (662)
January 10, 2020	Constitutional amendments and legislative referendums which the legislature wishes to place on presidential primary ballot presented to Secretary of State. (Art. 12, Sec. 1)
By January 25, 2020	County clerks deliver absent voter ballots for the Presidential Primary to local clerks. (714)
By January 25, 2020	Delivery of military and overseas AV ballots must begin for the Presidential Primary by this date. All requests received since November 5, 2019 from a military or overseas voter must be honored for all 2020 elections. (759a)
January 30, 2020 through February 18, 2020	Precinct inspectors for Presidential Primary appointed by city and township election commissions. (674)
By February 10, 2020	Notice of voter registration for Presidential Primary published. One notice required. (498)
By February 10, 2020	Clerk shall post and notify the Secretary of State of hours the clerk's office will be open on the Saturday or Sunday or both immediately before the election to issue and receive absent voter ballots. (761b)
By February 10, 2020	Clerk shall post and notify the Secretary of State of any additional locations and hours the clerk will be available to issue and receive absent voter ballots, if applicable. (761b)
February 24, 2020	Last day to register in any manner other than in-person with the local clerk for the Presidential Primary election. (497)
February 25 through 8:00 p.m. March 10, 2020	In-person registration with proof of residency with the local clerk. (497)
By 4:00 p.m., February 28, 2020	Write-in candidates file Declaration of Intent forms. (737a)
By February 29, 2020	County clerks deliver remainder of ballots and election supplies for presidential primary to local clerks. (714)

By March 3, 2020	Notice of Presidential Primary published. One notice required. (653a)
By March 5, 2020	Public accuracy test must be conducted. (R 168.778) Notice of test must be published at least 48 hours before test. (798)
Up to 5:00 p.m., March 6, 2020	Electors may obtain an absent voter ballot via First Class mail. (759)
Up to 4:00 p.m., March 9, 2020	Electors may obtain an absent voter ballot in person in the clerk's office. (761)
Up to 8:00 p.m., March 10, 2020	Election Day registrants with proof of residency may obtain and vote an absent voter ballot in person in the clerk's office or vote in person in the proper precinct. (761)
Up to 4:00 p.m., March 10, 2020	Emergency absentee voting for Presidential Primary. (759b)
March 10, 2020	Presidential Primary (613a)
9:00 a.m., March 12, 2020	Boards of County Canvassers meet to canvass presidential primary. (821)
By March 24, 2020	Boards of County Canvassers complete canvass of presidential primary; county clerks forward results to Secretary of State within 24 hours. (581, 822, 828)
By March 30, 2020	Board of State Canvassers meet to canvass presidential primary. (581)
May 20, 2020	Deadline for the Secretary of State to make available to the public the names, addresses, qualified voter number and political party ballots selected by each elector at the presidential primary. (615c)
By June 8, 2020	County, city and township clerks submit reimbursement requests with verified costs for the conduct of the presidential primary. (624g)