



CITY OF ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

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Below are some of the more common questions voters may have regarding **MICHIGAN'S JAN. 15, 2008, PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY.**

Voters seeking more detailed explanations can contact the
Ann Arbor City Clerk's Office at 734.994.2725.

Why are certain Democratic candidates not listed on the Democratic Party presidential primary ballot?

All candidates had the opportunity to withdraw from the ballot by filing an affidavit with the Secretary of State. Four candidates voluntarily filed withdrawal affidavits: Barack Obama, John Edwards, Joseph R. Biden Jr. and Bill Richardson. It was their choice to withdraw.

Can I write in a candidate's name on the ballot?

Your vote will not count if you do so. Anyone who wanted to run as a write-in candidate was required to file a "Declaration of Intent" form by January 4. No candidates filed the form for the Jan. 15 primary.

If I voted an absent voter ballot and attempted to cast a write-in vote, can I get a replacement ballot?

Yes. To obtain a replacement ballot, you must contact your city or township clerk before January 15, 2008. The clerk will then arrange to mail the replacement ballot to you or have you pick it up.

What does an "uncommitted" vote mean?

If enough voters cast "uncommitted" votes, the party will send delegates to the national nominating convention who are not committed to a specific candidate.

Why do I have to select a Democratic Party ballot or a Republican Party ballot?

The Michigan State Legislature enacted the ballot selection process that requires voters to state which party ballot they wish to receive. The law accommodates the national Democratic Party rules which do not recognize the results of a state's primary unless it has been conducted as a "closed" primary. The ballot selection process qualifies Michigan's primary as a "closed" primary. The law was supported by both the Republican Party and Democratic Party.

What is the difference between an "open" primary and a "closed" primary?

Voters in "open" primaries are given a ballot containing a column for every party qualified to participate. Voters then decide which party primary they wish to participate in while in the privacy of the voting station. Voters in "closed" primaries must state the party primary that they wish to participate in before being issued a ballot. The ballot given to voters only shows the party that corresponds with their choice.

Will Michigan's "closed" presidential primary procedures impact the August 5 primary in any way?

No. The August 5 primary is an "open" primary. You will not be asked to select a party ballot before voting. You will be issued a ballot containing both political parties and their candidates. You will select one of the parties in the privacy of the voting station.

Is "split ticket" voting ever allowed?

Yes, but only during general elections held to fill elective positions. It is not allowed in partisan primaries because voters cannot participate in more than a single party's nominating process.