Michigan Presidential Primary Facts and Statistics

Michigan Department of State
Bureau of Elections

June 2011

MICHIGAN PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

1912
The legislature enacted Public Act 9 to direct that a presidential preference primary be conducted in the month of April.

1931
The legislature enacted Public Act 200 to repeal the presidential preference primary.

1972
The legislature enacted Public Act 60 to reestablish the presidential primary subject to the following provisions:

- Primary would be held on the third Tuesday in May in presidential election years for each political party that received greater than 5% of the total vote cast nationwide in the last presidential election.

- The Secretary of State would issue a list of individuals generally advocated by the national news media as potential candidates for president. The law also provided that the state political party chairpersons could provide the Secretary of State with a list of individuals whom they consider to be potential presidential nominees for their political party.

  The Secretary of State was then required to notify each candidate appearing on the lists who in turn was required to file an affidavit indicating his or her political party preference and willingness to have his or her name appear on the ballot.

  Individuals whose names did not appear on either the Secretary of State's or a political party list could qualify as a candidate by filing nominating petitions. The petitions were required to be signed by registered electors equal to at least ½ of 1% of the total vote cast in the previous presidential election for the presidential candidate of the political party of the individual.

  In addition to the presidential candidates' names, a space was provided in each party column which allowed voters to vote as "uncommitted."

- In presidential years, delegates to the party's county convention would be elected at the presidential primary rather than at the state primary held in August.

  Delegate candidates were required to include on their nominating petition the name of one of the presidential candidates of the same party whose name would be printed on the primary ballot. The name of the presidential candidate to whom the delegate candidate was committed or the word "Uncommitted" was printed under the name of the delegate candidate on the ballot.

  If elected, the delegate would be bound to vote at each stage of the nominating process for the individual to whom the delegate was committed. Delegates could be released from their

commitment by written notice or public withdrawal from the race by the presidential candidate.

- Delegates elected to go to the national convention were required to be elected on a basis that would ensure that the proportion of the total delegation would be equal, as near as practicable, to the proportion of the statewide popular vote for "uncommitted" or for each presidential candidate. The determination of these proportions would only be made for those candidates or "uncommitted" which received at least 5% of the vote statewide.

- Reimbursement would be provided to the jurisdictions for conducting the primary on a per precinct formula which was subsequently changed by Public Act 185 to provide for reimbursement of actual costs.

1974
The legislature enacted Public Act 325 to effect the following changes in the laws governing the presidential preference primary:

- Political parties were given the option of electing delegates to their county convention at either the presidential primary or at the regular state primary held in August. As a result of this change, in the years 1976 and 1980, the Democratic Party chose to elect its county convention delegates at the regular August primary rather than the presidential preference primary held in May. For these same years, the Republican Party continued to elect its county convention delegates in May in the same manner as originally established under Public Act 60 of 1972. As a result, under the Democratic Party heading on the ballot, only the names of the presidential candidates and "uncommitted" appeared whereas under the Republican Party heading, in addition to the names of the presidential candidates and "uncommitted," the names of delegate candidates and their commitments were also printed on the ballot.

1983
The legislature enacted Public Act 181 to repeal the presidential preference primary.

1988
The legislature enacted Public Act 275 to reestablish the presidential preference primary subject to the following provisions:

- Primary would be held on the third Tuesday in March rather than the third Tuesday in May. The primary would still be restricted to political parties that received more than 5% of the total vote cast nationwide in the last presidential election.

- The nomination process used in the previous primaries would continue to be used in the reestablished presidential primary. The Secretary of State would issue a list of persons generally advocated by the national news media as being potential nominees for president. The political parties would also continue to provide a list of individuals whom they consider to be potential nominees of their party.

- The Secretary of State would continue to notify each candidate appearing on the lists who in turn was required to file an affidavit indicating his or her political party preference and willingness to have his or her name appear on the ballot.

  As in earlier legislation, an individual whose name did not appear on either the Secretary of State's list or a political party list could qualify as a candidate by filing a nominating petition. The petition was still required to contain signatures of registered electors equal to at least ½ of 1% of the total vote cast in the state at the previous presidential election for the presidential candidate of the political party of the individual. However, the legislature capped the signature requirement at 16,000 by limiting the number of signatures required to 1,000 times the number of congressional districts in the state.

  As in earlier primaries, in addition to the presidential candidates' names, a space was provided in each party column which allowed voters to vote as "uncommitted."

- Contrary to the earlier legislation, the legislature did not provide the political parties with the option of electing their delegates to the county convention at the presidential preference primary. As a result, no delegates names would appear on the presidential preference primary ballot.

  Before an individual could be elected by the political party to be a delegate to the state or national convention, the individual was required to file an affidavit designating the name of the presidential candidate he or she was committed to or stating that he or she was "uncommitted." If the individual designated a commitment to a candidate, the presidential candidate or designee would also be required to certify the individual as being committed to the candidate. The affidavit would be required to be filed with designated party officials.

  Delegates elected to go to the national convention would, as in previous legislation, be required to be elected on a basis that would ensure that the proportion of the total delegation would equal, as near as practicable, the proportion of the statewide population vote for "uncommitted" or for each presidential candidate. The determination of these proportions would only be made for those candidates or "uncommitted" which received at least 5% of the vote statewide.

  Delegates would still be bound to vote at each stage of the nominating process for the individual for whom the delegate was committed. Delegates could be released from their commitment by written notice or public withdrawal from the race by the presidential candidate.

- Provisions were provided for local jurisdictions to be reimbursed for conducting the primary. However, the legislation also stipulated that the local jurisdictions were to file their claims with the state no later than 90 days after the primary and the state was to reimburse within 90 days after receipt of the claims.

- The new law also provided that for the purpose of voting in the presidential preference primary only, a voter would have to declare a political party preference on their registration record at least 30 days before the primary. Provisions were also included to require that

1992
In February, both the Democratic and Republican Party made changes to their respective party rules which had the effect of amending state law[1]. The rules made the following changes:

- Registered voters who had not declared a Democratic or Republican Party preference on their registration record by the close of registration would be eligible to vote a Democratic ballot by declaring in writing at the polls a preference for the Democratic Party.

- Registered voters, regardless of any party preference indicated on their registration record, could vote a Republican ballot on election day by requesting one.

1995
The legislature enacted Public Act 87 to effect the following changes in the laws governing the presidential preference primary:

- The provisions of law requiring the declaration of a party preference in order to be eligible to vote in the presidential preference primary were eliminated.

  This action returned Michigan to an "open" primary system whereby a registered voter would be issued the ballots of both parties and the voter would select the party primary in which he or she wished to participate in the privacy of the voting station.

- The potential candidates' names on the combined lists prepared by the Secretary of State and the political parties would automatically have their names printed on the ballot under the designated party heading unless the named individual filed an affidavit indicating that he or she did not wish to have his or her name printed on the ballot or wished to be printed on the ballot under a different party heading.

- The political party would have the authority to establish the threshold percentage a particular candidate or "uncommitted" would be required to receive in order to be eligible for allocated delegates.

1999
The legislature enacted Public Act 71 and 72 to move the presidential preference primary to the fourth Tuesday in February in presidential election years.

2003
The legislature enacted Public Act 13 to suspend the conduct of the presidential primary in 2004.

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[1] Federal courts, in unrelated matters, had previously ruled that party rules superseded state law when the law involved the nomination process of the party.

2007

The legislature enacted Public Act 52 to effect the following changes in the laws governing the 2008 presidential preference primary:

- The primary would be held on January 15, 2008 for each political party that received 20% or more of the total vote cast in Michigan for the office of president in the previous presidential election.

- The Secretary of State would no longer be obligated to issue a list of potential presidential candidates in advance of the presidential primary.

- The state party chairpersons would be required to release candidate listings no later than the eighteenth Tuesday before the presidential primary (September 11, 2007).

- Candidates named by the state political party chairpersons could withdraw from the presidential primary by 4:00 p.m. on the fourteenth Tuesday before the presidential primary (October 9, 2007).

- Voters who wished to participate in the presidential primary would be required to indicate "in writing" which participating political party ballot they wished to receive. The Secretary of State would be responsible for prescribing a form which voters could use to indicate their party ballot choice and procedures "intended to protect or safeguard the confidentiality of the participating political party ballot selected by an elector."

- The Secretary of State would be required to "develop a procedure for city and township clerks to use when keeping a separate record at a presidential primary that contains the printed name, address, and qualified voter file number of each elector and the participating political party ballot selected by that elector at the presidential primary." The Secretary of State would also be required to "set a schedule" for county, city, and township clerks to submit the compiled political party ballot selection information to the Department of State.

- The Secretary of State would be required to forward the compiled political party ballot selection information to the chairperson of each participating political party within 71 days after the presidential primary (March 26, 2008).

- The Secretary of State, county clerks and local clerks would be obligated to "destroy the information indicating which participating political party ballot each elector selected at the presidential primary ... immediately after the expiration of the 22-month federal election records retention period."

- The "information acquired or in the possession of a public body indicating which participating political party ballot an elector selected at a presidential primary" would be exempt from public disclosure.

MICHIGAN PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY

PREVIOUS ELECTION RESULTS

JANUARY 15, 2008

Sam Brownback, Republican	351
Rudy Giuliani, Republican	24,725
Mike Huckabee, Republican	139,764
Duncan Hunter, Republican	2,819
John McCain, Republican	257,985
Ron Paul, Republican	54,475
Mitt Romney, Republican	**338,316**
Tom Tancredo, Republican	457
Fred Thompson, Republican	32,159
Uncommitted, Republican	18,118
Hillary Clinton, Democratic	**328,309**
Chris Dodd, Democratic	3,845
Mike Gravel, Democratic	2,361
Dennis Kucinich, Democratic	21,715
Uncommitted, Democratic	238,168

FEBRUARY 22, 2000

Gary Bauer, Republican	2,733
George Bush, Republican	549,665
Steve Forbes, Republican	4,894
Orrin Hatch, Republican	905
Alan Keyes, Republican	59,032
John McCain, Republican	**650,805**
Joe Schriner (Write-In), Republican	22
Uncommitted, Republican	8,714
Lyndon LaRouche, Jr, Democratic	**13,195**
Uncommitted, Democratic	31,655
Donald Trump, Reform	**2,164**
Uncommitted, Reform	948

MARCH 19, 1996

Lamar Alexander, Republican	7,631
Patrick Buchanan, Republican	177,562
Bob Dole, Republican	**265,425**
Robert Dornan, Republican	1,723
Steve Forbes, Republican	26,610
Phil Gramm, Republican	1,755
Alan Keyes, Republican	15,995
Richard Lugar, Republican	2,175
Maurice Taylor, Republican	1,018
Uncommitted, Republican	23,109
Scattered Write-Ins, Republican	1,158
Uncommitted, Democratic	123,109
Scattered Write-Ins, Democratic	1,158

MARCH 17, 1992

Edward Brown, Jr., Democratic	151,400
Bill Clinton, Democratic	**297,280**
Tom Harkin, Democratic	6,265
Bob Kerrey, Democratic	3,219
Lyndon LaRouche, Jr., Democratic	2,049
Paul Tsongas, Democratic	97,017
Uncommitted, Democratic	27,836
Scattered Write-Ins, Democratic	906
Patrick Buchanan, Republican	112,122
George Bush, Republican	**301,948**
David Duke, Republican	10,688
Uncommitted, Republican	23,809
Scattered Write-Ins, Republican	566

MAY 20, 1980

Edmund Brown, Democratic	**23,043**
Lyndon LaRouche, Jr., Democratic	8,948
Uncommitted, Democratic	36,385
Scattered Write-Ins, Democratic	10,048
John Anderson, Republican	48,947
George Bush, Republican	**341,998**
Benjamin Fernandez, Republican	2,248
Ronald Reagan, Republican	189,184
Harold Stassen, Republican	1,938
Uncommitted, Republican	10,265
Scattered Write-Ins, Republican	596

MAY 18, 1976

Jimmy Carter, Democratic	**307,559**
Fred R. Harris, Democratic	4,081
Henry M. Jackson, Democratic	10,332
Ellen McCormack, Democratic	7,623
R. Sargent Shriver, Democratic	5,738
Morris K. Udall, Democratic	305,134
George C. Wallace, Democratic	49,204
Uncommitted, Democratic	15,853
Scattered Write-Ins, Democratic	3,142
Gerald Ford, Republican	**690,180**
Ronald Reagan, Republican	364,052
Uncommitted, Republican	8,473
Scattered Write-Ins, Republican	109

MAY 16, 1972

Shirley Chisholm, Democratic	44,090
Vance Hartke, Democratic	2,862
Hubert H. Humphrey, Democratic	249,798
Henry M. Jackson, Democratic	6,938
George S. McGovern, Democratic	425,694
Edmund S. Muskie, Democratic	38,701
George C. Wallace, Democratic	**809,239**
Uncommitted, Democratic	10,700
Scattered Write-Ins, Democratic	51
Paul N. McCloskey, Republican	9,691
Richard Nixon, Republican	**321,652**
Uncommitted, Republican	5,370
Scattered Write-Ins, Republican	30
Scattered Write-Ins, American Independent	36
Uncommitted, American Independent	9,505

APRIL 2, 1928

Herbert Hoover, Republican	**282,809**
Calvin Coolidge, Republican	1,666
Charles G. Dawes, Republican	1,165
Frank O. Lowden, Republican	5,349
Alfred E. Smith, Democratic	**77,276**
James A. Reed, Democratic	324
Thomas J. Walsh, Democratic	1,034

APRIL 7, 1924

Calvin Coolidge, Republican	**236,191**
Hiram W. Johnson, Republican	103,739
William G. Simpson, Republican	10,268
Woodbridge N. Ferris, Democratic	42,028
Henry Ford, Democratic	**48,567**

APRIL 5, 1920

Herbert C. Hoover, Republican	52,503
Hiram W. Johnson, Republican	**156,939**
Frank O. Lowden, Republican	62,418
John J. Pershing, Republican	17,971
Miles Poindexter, Republican	2,662
William G. Simpson, Republican	3,857
Leonard Wood, Republican	112,568
William Jennings Bryant, Democratic	17,954
Edward I. Edwards, Democratic	16,642
Herbert Hoover, Democratic	**24,046**
William Gibbs McAdoo, Democratic	18,665
A. Mitchell Palmer, Democratic	11,187
Eugene V. Debs, Socialist	**5,310**

APRIL 16, 1916

Henry Ford, Republican	**83,057**
William G. Simpson, Republican	14,365
William Alden Smith, Republican	77,872
Woodrow Wilson, Democratic	**84,972**
Theodore Roosevelt, National Progressive	**383**
Allen Benson, Socialist	**62**
William P.F. Ferguson, Prohibition	**2,768**

MICHIGAN PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY

REGISTRATION AND VOTING STATISTICS

Year	Number Voting	Number Registered	Voting Age Population	% Registered	Turnout % VAP	Turnout % Registered
1972[1]	1,934,357	4,152,859	5,874,000	70.7	32.9	46.6
1976[2]	1,771,486	4,457,336	6,268,000	71.1	28.3	39.7
1980[3]	707,357	5,201,890	6,510,000	79.9	10.9	13.6
1992[2]	1,057,585	5,793,029	6,947,000	83.4	15.2	18.3
1996[4]	745,808	6,330,232	7,177,000	88.2	10.4	11.8
2000[3]	1,392,023	6,721,947	7,358,000	91.4	18.9	20.7
2008[5]	1,491,261	7,141,914	7,613,000	93.8	19.6	20.9

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1 The following state proposals also appeared on the ballot:

Proposed amendment to the Constitution to allow the legislature to authorize lotteries and to permit the sale of lottery tickets. (Adopted: YES - 1,352,768; NO - 506,788)

Proposed amendment to the Constitution to permit members of the legislature to resign and accept another office to which they have been elected or appointed. (Rejected: YES - 866,593; NO -915,312)

2 No state proposals appeared on the ballot.

3 No state proposals appeared on the ballot. Major Democratic Party presidential candidates did not participate due to National Democratic Party rule change which stipulates that results of a presidential primary conducted as an "open" primary are not binding on delegates.

4 No state proposals appeared on the ballot. No Democratic Party presidential candidates participated due to National Democratic Party rule referenced above.

5 No state proposals appeared on the ballot. Four Democratic Party presidential candidates withdrew from the primary.

MICHIGAN PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY

STATE EXPENSES

By all indications it appears that the expenses associated with the conduct of the presidential preference primaries in 1916, 1920, 1924 and 1928 were assumed by Michigan's cities and townships as no records can be found which document that the state provided any reimbursement.

When the presidential preference primary was reestablished in 1972, the legislature enacted a law stipulating that the local jurisdictions would be reimbursed for any costs associated with the conduct of the primary. The following figures reflect the approximate amounts the state reimbursed the local jurisdictions for conducting the primaries in 1972, 1976, 1980, 1992, 1996, 2000 and 2008:

1972	$ 1,957,000.00
1976	$ 2,385,000.00
1980	$ 3,385,000.00
1992	$ 5,036,000.00
1996	$ 5,065,000.00
2000	$ 6,259,000.00
2008	$ 9,983,000.00

MICHIGAN PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY

RELATED FACTS

- It has been reported that the first presidential primary law enacted in 1912 was adopted with the intent of helping Bull Moose candidate Teddy Roosevelt, however, it was passed too late.

- Henry Ford I won the Republican presidential primary in 1916 and the Democratic presidential primary in 1924.

- In 1920, Herbert C. Hoover appeared on the presidential primary ballot for both the Democratic and Republican parties. Mr. Hoover, who eight years later won the Michigan Republican primary and was to become president, won the Democratic primary but finished fourth in the Republican primary.

- In 1924, Hiram Johnson, a Republican Senator from California and President Calvin Coolidge appeared on the Republican ballot. It has been reported that one of President Coolidge's supporters entered the name of a Michigan resident, also by the name of Hiram Johnson, as a Republican candidate. The Michigan Johnson's name was eventually withdrawn as a candidate and Coolidge defeated Johnson by more than 2 - 1.

- In 1931, the legislature repealed the presidential preference primary. Prior to the repeal, a Special Commission on Revision of Election Laws made the following recommendation to Governor Wilber M. Brucker:

  > "We recommend a repeal of the presidential preferential primary. Since its introduction it has been of doubtful value in determining the wishes of the voters, it has been ineffective, and it has been a considerable expense to the state. Until the state can agree upon some uniform system for the election of delegates to the national nominating conventions, or until there is a national law on the subject, little is to be gained by leaving our present ineffective law on the statute books."

- In 1968, Governor George Wallace was the American Independent Party candidate for president. As a result, the American Independent Party qualified to appear on the newly established Michigan presidential preference primary.

- In 1972, Governor Wallace was generally advocated by the national news media as a potential candidate for president and his name was included on the list of candidates compiled by the Secretary of State.

  The law required that candidates, upon being notified of their inclusion upon the list, were required to file an affidavit specifying the party ballot they desired. Governor Wallace selected the Democratic party ballot. Consequently, the American Independent Party appeared on the ballot without any candidate as no candidate requested to have his or her name printed on the ballot as a candidate of the party.

  Newspaper articles written in the days immediately following the 1972 presidential preference primary indicated that a substantial portion of Democratic candidate Wallace's votes were

received from Republican cross-over voters. It was also reported that approximately one-third of the voters in the Democratic primary were Republican cross-overs and that the majority went to Wallace while McGovern received approximately one-third.

- In 1980, John Anderson, after having first filed his affidavit requesting to be a candidate of the Republican party, decided to run as an Independent. Mr. Anderson requested that his name be removed from the ballot and was informed that it was too late. He subsequently filed a lawsuit to have his name removed from the ballot which was denied by the courts and Mr. Anderson's name appeared on the ballot.

- In 1976, the municipal and township clerks filed suit in Ingham County Circuit Court challenging the conduct of the primary on several technical legal grounds. The Circuit Court issued a restraining order preventing any preparation for the primary pending a hearing on the matter. The matter was appealed to the Court of Appeals which ruled that the objections were without merit and lifted the restraining order. The ruling of the Court of Appeals was subsequently upheld by the Supreme Court.

- As the National Democratic Party had adopted rules which did not recognize the results of "open" presidential primary elections, the Michigan Democratic Party asked Democratic candidates not to participate in the 1980 presidential primary. As a result, only Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. and Edmund G. Brown, Jr., who appeared on the list issued by the Secretary of State and were considered potential Democratic candidates, filed affidavits requesting that their names be printed on the Democratic ballot. President Jimmy Carter and Edward Kennedy, whose names were also included on the list of potential candidates, declined to participate in the primary.

- For each of the presidential primaries held after the presidential primary was reestablished in 1972, the Democratic party has not added any supplemental names of potential candidates to the list originally issued by the Secretary of State. In 1980, the Republican Party supplemented the original list issued by the Secretary of State with the names of ex-president Gerald Ford, Benjamin Fernandez and Harold Stassen. While Fernandez and Stassen filed the required affidavits to have their names printed on the ballot as candidates of the Republican Party, President Ford declined to participate.

- Lyndon LaRouche, Jr., who appeared on the 1980 presidential preference primary ballot as a candidate of the Democratic party was not included on the list issued by the Secretary of State or added by any party in 1992. Mr. LaRouche filed a lawsuit in the Ingham County Circuit Court and the court subsequently ordered his name to be printed on the 1992 ballot as a candidate of the Democratic Party.

- The 1988 law which reestablished the presidential primary required that it be conducted as a "closed" primary, i.e., only those voters who declared their party preference in advance of the primary were eligible to participate in the primary.

- In 1991, Zolton Ferency filed suit asserting that the provisions of the 1988 law which reestablished the presidential primary were unconstitutional. The Circuit Court agreed with Mr. Ferency that the conduct of the primary as a "closed" primary would be unconstitutional. Additionally, the trial court also declared the provisions of law which required voters to restrict

- In 1996, the number of votes cast in Michigan for Ross Perot, the Reform Party's candidate for the office of U.S. President, exceeded 5% of the total number of votes cast nationwide for the office of U.S. President. As a result, the Reform Party qualified to appear on Michigan's February 22, 2000 presidential primary ballot. Donald Trump was the only candidate that qualified to appear on the 2000 presidential primary ballot as a Reform Party candidate.

- In 2007, the legislation enacted to move Michigan's 2008 presidential primary to January 15 (PA 52 of 2007) was challenged in court on State constitutional grounds (Grebner v. State, 480 Mich 939 (2007)). At issue was whether the law violated Art IV, Sec. 30, of the State Constitution. Art IV, Sec. 30, of the State Constitution stipulates that any "appropriation of public money or public property for local or private purposes" be passed by the State Legislature by a 2/3 vote. PA 52 of 2007, enacted with less than a 2/3 vote, granted the two political parties eligible to participate in the presidential primary exclusive access to the records which showed the ballot choice made by each elector who participated in the primary – information gathered at public expense. After the plaintiffs prevailed at the Circuit Court and Appeals Court levels, the Michigan Supreme Court overturned the lower court rulings in November 2007 opening the way for the conduct of the presidential primary.

  PA 52 of 2007 was also challenged in federal court under a separate action brought in 2007 (Green Party of Michigan v. Michigan Secretary of State). At issue under the federal lawsuit was whether the restriction on the distribution of the ballot choice data violated the U.S. Constitution. The federal court ruled that PA 52 of 2007 was in violation of the U.S. Constitution and extended the State the option of opening the data to everyone or to no one (including the two political parties that were eligible to receive the data under the law). In view of the ruling, the State decided to withhold the data to remain consistent with the legislature's intent to shield the ballot choice data from public view. In a subsequent legal challenge to this decision, the Ingham County Circuit Court ruled that the data must be made public. The Michigan Court of Appeals upheld the Circuit Court ruling on appeal.

  In March 2008, Practical Political Consulting submitted a FOIA request for the ballot choice data. The Secretary of State denied the request based on three grounds: 1) party preference is not a public record 2) party preference data falls under the privacy exemption and 3) party preference data is exempt under Michigan election law. Practical Political Consulting then brought suit against the Secretary of State (Practical Political Consulting v. Secretary of State, 287 Mich App 434 (2010)). The trial court found in favor of Practical Political Consulting and granted injunctive relief enjoining the Secretary of State from violating FOIA by claiming the exceptions listed. The Court of Appeals affirmed the trial court's decision.

  With respect to the statutory exemption, Michigan election law states, "a person making a request under the freedom of information act ... is not entitled to receive a copy of a portion of a voter registration record that contains a declaration of party preference or no party preference of an elector." (MCL 168.495(a)(2)) The Court of Appeals found that this language does not apply to, or specifically describe, the "separate records" kept by city and township clerks that contained the ballot choice data. The Court of Appeals also found that

ballot choice data does not fall under the privacy exemption, because the public's interest in the purity of elections is paramount, and it outweighs any interest in keeping ballot choice data private.

Controversy also surrounded the January 15 date selected for the conduct of the presidential primary. The Republican National Committee announced that no state could hold a presidential primary prior to February 5, 2008; the Democratic National Committee adopted a similar rule with an exception that permitted four states (Iowa, New Hampshire, Nevada and South Carolina) to hold a presidential primary or caucus before February 5, 2008. As Michigan broke with this rule by setting its presidential primary on January 15, the Democratic Party declared that it would not seat Michigan's delegates while the Republican Party declared that it would not seat half of Michigan's delegates. In the midst of the controversy, four of the Democratic Party candidates withdrew from the primary (Barack Obama, Joe Biden, John Edwards and Bill Richardson) casting new questions over the viability of Michigan's presidential primary. After a number of legislative attempts to reschedule the presidential primary and force the four Democratic candidates who withdrew to participate, the primary was conducted as originally scheduled on January 15, 2008. Ultimately, the Democratic Party seated all of Michigan's delegates while the Republican Party enforced its announced penalty and seated half of Michigan's delegates.

STATE OF MICHIGAN
RUTH JOHNSON, SECRETARY OF STATE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
LANSING

September 20, 2011

February 28, 2012 Presidential Primary
-- Dates and Deadlines --

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

By 4:00 p.m., November 11, 2011	Secretary of State issues a list of individuals "generally advocated" by the national news media as potential Republican Party and Democratic Party presidential nominees. (614a)
By 4:00 p.m., November 15, 2011	State chairpersons of the Republican Party and Democratic Party advise Secretary of State of individuals their respective parties view as potential presidential nominees. (614a)
November 16, 2011	Secretary of State notifies potential presidential nominees of legal provisions relating to Michigan's presidential primary. (614a)
By December 6, 2011	Petitions to place county and local questions on presidential primary ballot filed with county and local clerks. (646a)
By 4:00 p.m., December 9, 2011	Potential presidential nominees appearing on lists compiled by Secretary of State and state party chairpersons who indicate in writing that "[Candidate's name] is not a presidential candidate," or who wish to change their political party affiliation, file an affidavit with the Secretary of State. (615a)
By 4:00 p.m., December 9, 2011	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, 2011. Signature requirements: Republican Party candidate: 10,244; Democratic Party candidate: 14,363).
By December 20, 2011	Ballot wording of county and local proposals to be presented at the presidential primary certified to county and local clerks; local clerks receiving ballot wording forward to county clerk within two days. (646a)

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December 30, 2011	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 14, 2012	County clerks deliver A.V. ballots for presidential primary to local clerks. (714)
January 19, 2012 through February 7, 2012	Local election commissions appoint precinct inspectors for presidential primary. (674)
By January 23, 2012	Notice of close of registration for presidential primary published. (498)
January 30, 2012	Last date to register for presidential primary. (498)
By February 21, 2012	Notice of presidential primary published. (653a)
By February 18, 2012	County clerks deliver remainder of ballots and election supplies for presidential primary to local clerks. (714)
By 2:00 p.m., February 25, 2012	Electors who wish to receive an A.V. ballot for the presidential primary by mail submit A.V. applications. (759)
Up to 4:00 p.m., February 27, 2012	Electors qualified to obtain an A.V. ballot for presidential primary may vote in person in clerk's office. (761)
Up to 4:00 p.m., February 28, 2012	Emergency A.V. voting for presidential primary. (759b)
February 28, 2012	**Presidential Primary (613a)**
1:00 p.m., February 29, 2012	Boards of county canvassers meet to canvass presidential primary. (821)
By March 13, 2012	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 19, 2012	Board of State Canvassers meet to canvass presidential primary. (581)
By May 28, 2012	County, city and township clerks submit reimbursement vouchers for presidential primary. (624g)