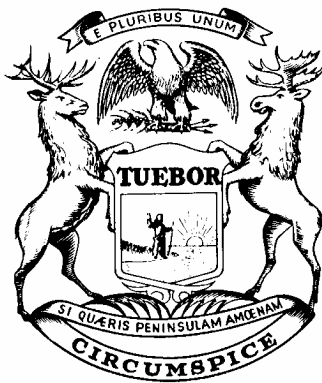


# **Michigan Presidential Primary Facts and Statistics**



**Michigan Department of State  
Bureau of Elections**

**October 16, 2006**

# **MICHIGAN PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY**

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## **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

notices of this new requirement appear on applications to register to vote and at polling places at elections conducted prior to the presidential preference primary.

## **1992**

In February, both the Democratic and Republican Party made changes to their respective party rules which had the effect of amending state law<sup>1</sup>. 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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<sup>1</sup> Federal courts, in unrelated matters, had previously ruled that party rules superseded state law when the law involved the nomination process of the party.

## **MICHIGAN PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY**

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### **PREVIOUS ELECTION RESULTS**

#### **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
<b>John McCain, Republican</b>	<b>650,805</b>
Joe Schriener (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
<b>Bob Dole, Republican</b>	<b>265,425</b>
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
<b>Bill Clinton, Democratic</b>	<b>297,280</b>
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
<b>George Bush, Republican</b>	<b>301,948</b>
David Duke, Republican	10,688
Uncommitted, Republican	23,809
Scattered Write-Ins, Republican	566

## MAY 20, 1980

<b>Edmund Brown, Democratic</b>	<b>23,043</b>
Lyndon LaRouche, Jr., Democratic	8,948
Uncommitted, Democratic	36,385
Scattered Write-Ins, Democratic	10,048
John Anderson, Republican	48,947
<b>George Bush, Republican</b>	<b>341,998</b>
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

<b>Jimmy Carter, Democratic</b>	<b>307,559</b>
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
<b>Gerald Ford, Republican</b>	<b>690,180</b>
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
<b>George C. Wallace, Democratic</b>	<b>809,239</b>
Uncommitted, Democratic	10,700
Scattered Write-Ins, Democratic	51
Paul N. McCloskey, Republican	9,691
<b>Richard Nixon, Republican</b>	<b>321,652</b>
Uncommitted, Republican	5,370
Scattered Write-Ins, Republican	30
Scattered Write-Ins, American Independent	36
Uncommitted, American Independent	9,505

## **APRIL 2, 1928**

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

## **APRIL 7, 1924**

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

## **APRIL 5, 1920**

Herbert C. Hoover, Republican	52,503
<b>Hiram W. Johnson, Republican</b>	<b>156,939</b>
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
<b>Herbert Hoover, Democratic</b>	<b>24,046</b>
William Gibbs McAdoo, Democratic	18,665
A. Mitchell Palmer, Democratic	11,187
<b>Eugene V. Debs, Socialist</b>	<b>5,310</b>

**APRIL 16, 1916**

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

## MICHIGAN PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY

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### REGISTRATION AND VOTING STATISTICS

Year	Number Voting	Number Registered	Voting Age Population	% Registered	Turnout % VAP	Turnout % Registered
1972 <sup>1</sup>	1,934,357	4,152,859	5,874,000	70.7	32.9	46.6
1976 <sup>2</sup>	1,771,486	4,457,336	6,268,000	71.1	28.3	39.7
1980 <sup>3</sup>	707,357	5,201,890	6,510,000	79.9	10.9	13.6
1992 <sup>2</sup>	1,057,585	5,793,029	6,947,000	83.4	15.2	18.3
1996 <sup>4</sup>	745,808	6,330,232	7,072,000	89.5	10.5	11.8
2000 <sup>3</sup>	1,392,023	6,721,947	7,358,000	91.4	18.9	20.7

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<sup>1</sup> 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)

<sup>2</sup> No state proposals appeared on the ballot.

<sup>3</sup> 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.

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

## **MICHIGAN PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY**

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### **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 and 2000:

1972	\$ 1,957,000.00
1976	\$ 2,385,282.00
1980	\$ 3,385,000.00
1992	\$ 5,036,000.00
1996	\$ 5,065,000.00
2000	\$ 6,259,000.00

## **MICHIGAN PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY**

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### **TRIVIA**

- 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.
- C 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 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 their voting to candidates of one political party in any partisan primary was unconstitutional. The decision of the Circuit Court was reversed by the Court of Appeals and on appeal the Supreme Court upheld the decision of the Court of Appeals.
- 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.