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Clerk/Register of Deeds

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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STUDENT ELECTION INSPECTORS SET RECORD AGAIN

Voters on May 8 will see some fresh faces at the polls as Macomb County Clerk / Register of Deeds Carmella Sabaugh's student election inspector program continues to grow. Sabaugh announced today participation of 88 students from 10 area high schools across 5 school districts for the May 8 election, beating the last record number of 82, set last year also by Sabaugh.

"I am impressed with the quality of Macomb County public schools and their willingness to help students learn and earn," said Sabaugh. "A great way to promote voting among young people is to actually employ them in running elections."

"This is a wonderful opportunity for our students! Working as an election inspector is a unique experience and will provide them with the opportunity to actively participate and observe the democratic process in action," said Dr. DiAnne Pellerin, Superintendent, L'Anse Creuse Public Schools. "The response from our students has been very positive. They're looking forward to the opportunity to learn and earn."

"Students will learn about election rules and then apply their knowledge in a real world setting," said Dr. T. C. Wallace, Jr., Mount Clemens Community Schools Superintendent. "That's education at its best."

Michigan law allows a high school student to be an election inspector if the student is at least 16 years old and there are at least three other adult election inspectors at the same location.

Students will work with other election inspectors on May 8th to make sure people are registered to vote and ballots are properly kept confidential and will be assisting with counting ballots and reporting election results on election night. Students will work a half-day shift, either 6 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. or 1:30 p.m. – 9 p.m. and will be paid \$77.50. Before the election, each student will attend a training session at Freedom Hill County Park with other election inspectors.

Clerk's Office

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Out-of-State: 310-575-5035

Register of Deeds

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Students will participate from Fraser High School, L'Anse Creuse High – North, L'Anse Creuse High, Mount Clemens High, Eisenhower High, Henry Ford II, Adlai Stevenson, Utica High, New Haven High, and Dakota High.

Sabaugh started this program with 72 students in May of 2005 in Clinton and Macomb Townships after a law change opened a loophole that let the local clerks there choose not to run school elections.

“Since I have to run some local elections now, I thought I’d try to get young people involved,” said Sabaugh. “This program is a good example of schools and government working together to teach students, while getting an essential job done well, and that benefits everyone,” said Sabaugh.

This year six local clerks used the legal loophole to give up local control over school elections, resulting in Sabaugh serving as the local election official for 179,068 registered voters on May 8. Sabaugh is running school elections in Clinton, Harrison, Macomb and Shelby Townships in Macomb County and Casco and Ira Townships in St. Clair County.

This program is not the first time Sabaugh has tried to generate interest among young people in voting. Sabaugh has held voter registration drives for high school students and visited several county high schools.

“Voting is not just for old people,” said Sabaugh, who has served as county clerk / register of deeds since 1992 and admits she is at least 30 years-old.

PHOTO EDITOR NOTE:

Three training sessions for students and adult inspectors will be held at Freedom Hill County Park, 15000 Metropolitan Parkway, Sterling Heights, located on the south side of Metropolitan Parkway between Schoenherr and Utica Roads the following dates and times:

Monday, April 30, 2007: 9 a.m. – 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Tuesday, May 1, 2007: 9 a.m. – 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Wednesday, May 2, 2007: 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.

This will be an opportunity to photograph students and adult inspectors learning how to conduct elections.

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