



# Carmella Sabaugh

Macomb County  
Clerk/Register of Deeds

Betty A. Oleksik  
Deputy Register of Deeds

Todd Schmitz  
Deputy Clerk

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
March 7, 2008

CONTACT:  
Carmella Sabaugh 586-469-7939

## **Sabaugh asks GOP officials to end party's lawsuit against ballot application mailings**

Macomb County Clerk Carmella Sabaugh is reaching across the aisle for support in her legal battle with the Republican Party over distributing absent ballot application forms to senior citizens. Yesterday she faxed letters to U.S. Rep. Candice Miller and the county's Republican commissioners, who support her effort, asking them to write to the state GOP to request an end to a lawsuit that would reduce senior citizen voter turnout in the upcoming elections.

"The Michigan Republican Party is trying to undo the unanimous bipartisan vote of our county commissioners," said Sabaugh. "I hope Republican officials who say they support my efforts to improve voter turnout will take action to end their party's lawsuit that would make it harder for senior citizens to vote for president."

Sabaugh has asked each of Macomb County's 24 communities to boost voter turnout by mass mailing absent voter application forms (not ballots) to seniors age 60+. This has been the practice in many communities for years. In those communities that decline, the county will conduct the mailing so that all seniors are treated equally. Several communities have already passed resolutions to provide this service.

In 2006, the Michigan Republican Party filed suit against Sabaugh claiming "irreparable harm" if all seniors were provided an AV application form. When Sabaugh scored a victory in Macomb Circuit Court, the GOP took the case to the Michigan Court of Appeals, where it's still pending.

U.S. Rep. Candice Miller recently expressed support for Sabaugh's plan saying, "Clerks, by their very job description, should do everything they can to increase voter participation." The Macomb County Board of Commissioners unanimously approved Sabaugh's plan for the 2008 elections in January, including all eight GOP commissioners. A copy of the letters Sabaugh sent to Miller and GOP commissioners is attached.

More controversy is expected Monday, March 10 when the Macomb County Board of Commissioners Legislative and Administrative Services Committee meets to consider a request by the Republican Shelby Township Clerk to exclude seniors in some communities by, "Allow[ing] Communities to Opt Out of Absentee Ballot Application Mailing." The meeting is at 10 a.m., or after the previous committee finishes, at the Administration Building, One South Main, Mount Clemens.

### **Clerk's Office**

40 N. Main St.  
Mount Clemens, MI 48043  
586-469-5120  
Fax: 586-783-8184

<http://www.macombcountymi.gov/clerksoffice>  
[clerksoffice@macombcountymi.gov](mailto:clerksoffice@macombcountymi.gov)

### **Fax-on-Demand**

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### **Register of Deeds**

10 N. Main St.  
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# Carmella Sabaugh

Todd Schmitz  
Deputy Clerk

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Betty A. Oleksik  
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March 6, 2008

The Honorable Candice Miller  
United States Representative  
48653 Van Dyke  
Shelby Township, MI 48317


Dear Congresswoman Miller:

Thank you for your recent comments in support of my fight to increase voter turnout by mass mailing absent voter application forms to all Macomb County seniors age 60+ who will not get one from their local clerk. I appreciate you taking this position and agree with you that clerks should do everything they can to increase voter participation. Your position is in line with the Macomb County Board of Commissioners, which unanimously approved my plan.

Please write to the Michigan Republican Party and ask for an end to the party's lawsuit against me. I am confident you, and the Republican commissioners who voted for my plan, can stop the Republican Party lawsuit that would prevent seniors from getting AV application forms and reduce senior citizen voter turnout. Not only would you be joining my fight on behalf of Macomb County senior citizens, but you would also be saving Macomb County taxpayers legal costs because we would no longer have to defend senior voting rights against the GOP lawsuit. If the GOP wins the lawsuit, then this could be the first presidential election that many clerks will not mass mail absent voter application forms to seniors.

Please forward me a copy of any letter you send to your party on this important issue. Thank you again for your comments and support on this issue!

Sincerely,

  
Carmella Sabaugh  
Macomb County Clerk / Register of Deeds

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March 6, 2008

Commissioner Peter Lund  
One South Main Street, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Mount Clemens, MI 48043

Dear Commissioner Lund:

Thank you for your January vote in favor of my fight to increase voter turnout by mass mailing absent voter application forms to all Macomb County seniors age 60+ who will not get one from their local clerk. I appreciate you, and the unanimous Board of Commissioners, taking this position. I also appreciate Commissioner Szczepanski's amendment to make sure the May election is included.

Please write to the Michigan Republican Party and ask for an end to the party's lawsuit against me. The lawsuit is contrary to your vote in January. I am confident you can stop the Republican Party lawsuit that would prevent seniors from getting AV application forms and reduce senior citizen voter turnout. Not only would you be joining my fight on behalf of Macomb County senior citizens, but you would also be saving Macomb County taxpayers legal costs because we would no longer have to defend senior voting rights against the GOP lawsuit. If the GOP wins the lawsuit, then this could be the first presidential election that many clerks will not mass mail absent voter application forms to seniors.

Please forward me a copy of any letter you send to your party on this important issue. Thank you again for your comments and support on this issue!

Sincerely,

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# BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

1 S. Main St., 9th Floor  
Mount Clemens, Michigan 48043  
586-469-5125 FAX 586-469-5993  
macombcountymi.gov/boardofcommissioners

MARCH 3, 2008

## NOTICE OF MEETING

There will be a meeting of the **LEGISLATIVE AND ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE** on Monday, March 10, 2008, at **10 a.m. OR FIVE MINUTES FOLLOWING THE JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING**, on the 9<sup>th</sup> Floor of the Administration Building, in the Commissioners' Board Room, Mount Clemens.

## AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Approval of Minutes Dated 01-14 and 02-04-08 (previously distributed)
5. Public Participation
6. Miscellaneous Department Requests: (attached)
  - a) County Clerk (1 request)
  - b) Information Technology (1 request)
  - c) Planning and Economic Development (1 request)
7. Adopt County Information Technology Business Plan: 2008-2011 and Technology Planning Framework Principles and Guidelines (attached)
8. Allow Communities to Opt Out of Absentee Ballot Application Mailing (attached)
9. Monthly Report from Office of Public Affairs (attached)
10. Monthly Reports from Corporation Counsel (attached)
11. Report from Lobbyist (attached)

**Denise M. Jacks**  
Committee Reporter

**MEMBERS:** Lund-Chair, Switalski-Vice Chair, Sauger, Slinde, Vosburg, Bruley, Rocca, Drolet, Szczepanski, Doherty, J. Flynn, D. Flynn, Brdak and Crouchman (ex-officio)

**ALSO:** David Diegel, Director, Finance Department  
John Foster, Assistant Director, Finance Department  
George Brumbaugh, Director, Corporation Counsel  
John Anderson, Director, Risk Management and Safety Department  
Director, Human Resources Department

## MACOMB COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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Chairman

Dana Camphous-Peterson  
District 18  
Vice-Chair

Leonard Haggerty  
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Sergeant-At-Arms

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Joan Flynn - District 6  
Sue Rocca - District 7  
David Flynn - District 8  
Robert Mijac - District 9  
Phyllis DeSaele - District 10

Ed Szczepanski - District 11  
Peter J. Lund - District 12  
Don Brown - District 13  
Brian Brdak - District 14  
Keith Rengert - District 15

Carey Torrice - District 16  
Ed Bruley - District 17  
Paul Gielegem - District 19  
Kathy Tocco - District 20

Betty Slinde - District 22  
Sarah Roberts - District 24  
Kathy D. Vosburg - District 25  
Leon Drolet - District 26