



Ferndale Precinct Inspector Pulse

IN THIS ISSUE

Shorter lines = happy voters

The March 8 Presidential Primary was our first election in the new polling locations. For those of you who were working the polls that day you probably thought it felt busier than usual. You were right! Our voter turnout was 47%. That's almost three times more than the 2012 Presidential Primary when we had 17% voter turnout!

2016 is going to be a busy year!

We aren't expecting things to slow down all that much for the rest of the year. While it is great for democracy to have such high voter turnout, it is a real challenge for us.

The need to recruit and retain precinct inspectors has never been more crucial than it is right now. We hope that you are available to work the August 2 Primary and November 8 Presidential Elections. We also encourage you to reach out to your tech savvy friends, co-workers, kids, and grandkids who might be willing to spend a day for democracy.

We need to hear from you

We need to know if you can work. Period. Our office staff is just me and Barb and the amount of time we spend trying to track down and confirm precinct inspectors is far more than you probably think. We've been

pretty relaxed in the past and it has consistently left us short staffed on Election Day. When we schedule you to work we are counting on you to be there. There are no last minute emergency replacements waiting in the wings; if someone is a no show or cancels a day or two before the election that means we have to pull an inspector from someone else's precinct, leaving them shorthanded. Of course, injury and illness don't care if you've committed to work, but we really need to hear from you when we ask you to confirm that you can work. Email is our preferred method of contact as we simply don't have time to call everyone. Please check your email and respond at your earliest convenience. If you can't work, we need as much notice as possible to look for someone else.

Why are lines still so long?

The short answer is we need more inspectors. The more complicated answer is that in addition to more workers, we need to better communicate the best layout for each precinct to maximize the space available. In August and November the ballots are going to be longer, which means we need to fit as many voting stations as possible into each precinct to keep the flow moving. We will be looking at every polling location and finding the best layout.



Changing up our training methods

We'll be grouping precinct chairs, new inspectors, seasoned workers, and EPB specialists into separate training sessions to target specific segments of our inspector pool and personalize the training experience.

Page 2



Customized precinct layouts

Every precinct will receive their own tailored polling location layout diagram to maximize the space available and improve the voter experience.

Page 3

Specialized Training

We want our inspectors to enjoy their service, not struggle with duties they aren't prepared for or capable of. Starting with the August 2 Primary election, we will be offering training tailored to ability and experience level.

- ➔ Precinct chairs will attend a session specifically targeted to more complex problem solving, education of state election law, and precinct management and control methods.
- ➔ Seasoned experienced inspectors (those who've worked 3 or more elections) will attend a session that provides an overview of election specific tasks (hello, Precinct Delegates in August!), reminders on key duties, and revisit open and closing procedures.
- ➔ New inspectors who are working their first few elections will attend a class geared towards familiarizing them with the basics, learning key duties and getting their hands on the equipment.
- ➔ EPB specialist is a new category. The state has finally given us the thumbs up to network 2 EPB laptops in each precinct. This will speed up voter processing exponentially but only if we have EPB operators who are very



advanced computer users. We also now have the tablets to monitor the lines and assess whether voters are in their proper polling location. To adequately staff the EPBs and tablets we will be selecting specialists who will have to successfully complete a skills assessment.

- ➔ These new categories are designed to give everyone a level of comfort that they are not working outside their knowledge base or skill set. We want the experience to be as smooth for our workers as it is for our voters.

MORE MONEY \$\$

On June 13 City Council approved an increase in compensation to \$11.00 per hour for precinct inspectors and \$13.00 an hour for chairs. Due to the move from a flat day rate inspectors will need to track their hours in the EPB remarks report.



Dates to Remember

For the August 2 Primary

- Close of Registration – July 5
- Deadline to appoint workers – July 12
- Election Inspector Training – July 30
- EPB Training – week of July 25
- Clerk's office open for AV ballots – July 30
- Election Day – August 2
- Pay checks mailed – week of August 8

For the November 8 Presidential

- Close of Registration – October 11
- Deadline to appoint workers – October 18
- Election Inspector Training – November 5
- EPB Training – week of October 31
- Clerk's office open for AV ballots – Nov. 5
- Election Day – November 8
- Pay checks mailed – week of November 14

Fun fact: If it seems like the August election is really early and the November election is really late, that's because they are! State election law requires elections to be held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday. August 1 is a Monday, so the Primary election is the earliest day it can be. November 1 is a Tuesday so the first Monday is the 7th, making the Presidential election the latest it can possibly be.

PRECINCT HAPPENINGS



Donuts & Sandwiches

Once again you will be provided with a box of donuts to start the day, with Subway sandwiches for your mid-day meal.



Polling Location Layout

Many of you worked in a new polling location for the March 8 Presidential Primary. With the closure of several Ferndale schools facilities and a request from Hazel Park to vacate their school, we lost 4 of our previous 7 polling locations. We carefully reviewed the facilities before deciding on the buildings we eventually selected. All were assessed for sufficient polling location space, amount of parking available, and area for lines to queue up inside the facility. Unfortunately, our plans didn't pan out so well for some of the new locations.

Your success is our success

To us there is nothing more important than administering fair, impartial, hassle-free elections. That mission takes on extra significance when the race for president is as hotly contested as it is this year. We do not expect August to be as busy as March, but this year has proven that predictions can be wrong, and November will likely see record voter turnout.

We are working daily on ideas to make your job as easy as it can be under the circumstances. We want your feedback to help improve your experience. We feel that each and every one of you is a vital member of our team and we welcome your ideas.

The unexpectedly high turnout did show us where we need to make changes and communicate better with our workers and the DPW guys who help set up our precincts. Barb and I visited several of the polling locations to reassess and map out the layout that will allow for the most efficient use of space. We'll be drawing up customized layouts for each precinct. More on that at training!



Line Survey

The State Director of Elections has asked us to survey the number of voters waiting by counting the voters in line at the top of each hour. This data will be used to help the Bureau of Elections create best practices for line management

FAST FACTS

47%

The record breaking percentage of voters who participated in the March 8 Presidential Primary.

984

Number of ballots we are sending out in our first mailing. It's going to be another busy election!

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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