

State Dems draw lines for March 17 vote

Michigan Democrats will take the first step Friday, March 17, in a three-step process to pick 155 delegates to the July Democratic National Convention in San Francisco.

At schools, community centers and libraries across the Oakland County suburbs, Democrats will cast presidential preference ballots from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

"Anyone who declares himself or herself a Democrat is eligible to vote," said Orville Tungate, longtime Democratic Party leader and elections expert in the Wayne County clerk's office. "There is no joining the party required. There are no dues."

"The rules are that you have to be a registered voter, except 17-year-olds who will be 18 by Nov. 6. They must declare they will register to vote."

THE SEMI-OPEN voting will be used to determine how many delegates each presidential candidate will have in the Michigan delegation.

A person must sign a card declaring he or she is a Democrat and then may vote for any of the surviving presidential hopefuls or may choose "undecided." Of the 155 delegates representing the state's 18 congressional districts, 93 will be committed by this method.

Step 2 in the process will take place April 14 when enrolled Democrats meet in district conventions to pick national convention delegates.

In order to be allocated a delegate from one of Michigan's 18 congressional districts, a presidential candidate must have received at least 20 percent of the vote in the March 17 poll.

This requirement was roundly criticized by George W. Sallade, Ann Arbor attorney and a supporter of U.S. Sen. Gary Hart. Appearing last month before the Democratic State Central Committee, Sallade said 20 percent was too high. But the DSCC left the rule unchanged.

STEP 3 will take place April 28 when the state central committee meets in Lansing to elect 59 at-large delegates, according to party Chairman Rick Wiener.

The committee will pick 31 from the ranks of party leaders and top elected officials. The remaining 18 at-large delegates will be picked from the throughout the state.

"Michigan's delegation shall be evenly divided between males and females," said Wiener. "There will be a one-person deviation due to the odd number of delegates."

"The party has established affirmative action of 22 percent for blacks, 1 percent for Hispanics, less than 1 percent for Native Americans, and representation for Asian/Pacific Americans."

The at-large group will be used to achieve the affirmative action goals.

IN THE MARCH 17 balloting, participants will be asked to show one piece of identification which identifies their zip codes. A preferred piece of identification would be the voter registration card.

Here are the polling places for Oakland County communities served by the Observer & Eccentric newspapers:

Farmington Hills — Farmington Community Library, 32737 W. Twelve Mile.

Farmington — Farmington Community Library, 23550 Liberty.

Southfield (Zip code 48076) and Lathrup Village — Southfield Civic Center, 48000 Evergreen.

Southfield (Zip codes 48034 and 48075) — Bracc-Lederly Community Education Center, 18575 W. Nine Mile.

West Bloomfield, Orchard Lake, Commerce and Walled Lake — Dombrowski Field House, St. Mary's of Orchard Lake, Commerce Road and Orchard Lake Road.

Troy — Troy Community Center, 510 W. Big Beaver.

Southfield Township and Bloomfield Township — Lycee International School, 30800 Evergreen.

Birmingham and Bloomfield Hills — Baldwin Public Library, 300 W. Merrill, Birmingham.

Avon Township, Rochester and Auburn Hills — Winchester Mall, Avon and Rochester roads.

Addison, Oakland, Orion and Oxford townships — Orion Township Hall, 2525 Joslyn, Lake Orion.

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Reickert to head Chrysler office

Chrysler Corp. has announced the appointment of Erick A. Reickert, 48, of Bloomfield Hills as director of a newly established Advance Product Planning Office, reporting to John D. Withrow, executive vice president of Product Development.

"Creation of this new office completes the corporate technical management organization we announced in December 1983," said Withrow, adding the new office would play "a key role in developing aggressive and effective programs that will provide high-quality products and meet the demands of the marketplace."

Reickert, 48, joins Chrysler Corp. after more than 18 years of automotive product planning and management experience. His most recent positions were business development director for North American Manufacturing Operations and director of Small Car Planning at Ford Motor Co.

During his career, Reickert also served five years as vice president of special product and manufacturing programs for Ford of Europe. Among other accomplishments, he had responsibility for planning Ford's Fiesta, initiating the front-wheel-drive Escort program, and coordinating that program in Europe. He joined Ford Motor in 1965.

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