

Voters to get '92 party cards

(AP) — Seconds after they cast their ballots for president on Nov. 8, Michigan voters will be given a chance to start thinking about the 1992 presidential race.

Bureau of Elections director Chris Thomas said election clerks will be handing party preference forms to voters as they leave the voting booths on Election Day. Voters must declare a party preference by Feb. 17, 1992, if they want to vote in the March 17, 1992, presidential primary.

Established by the Legislature earlier this year, the 1992 primary will be the first presidential primary in Michigan since 1980 and the first "closed" primary since 1947.

DEMOCRATS QUIT using the primary after 1972 because their national party rules didn't recognize open primaries.

To select their presidential delegates this year, Republicans used a multi-tiered convention process while Democrats used a caucus system.

"The creation of a closed presidential primary breaks with Michigan's long tradition of having open primaries. We expect many voters are going to question this when they arrive at the polling place and are confronted with this new opportunity on Nov. 8," Thomas said.

The law requires that party preference cards be distributed at each election. Clerks have been asked to hand out the cards to voters as they leave the polling places, so voters don't get the impression the cards are related to the Nov. 8 balloting, Thomas said.

VOTERS MAY fill out the cards on the spot and hand them back to the election workers, reject the cards, or take them with them to be mailed in later.

While voters who don't fill out one of the cards won't be able to vote in the 1992 primary, Thomas said they will be eligible to vote in all primaries for state and local offices.

The party choice can be changed any time until 30 days before the 1992 primary, he said.

Although the cards allow voters to declare "no party preference," Thomas said voters who select that option won't be able to vote in the primary.

Five in Oakland join foster care board

Five Oakland County residents have been named to a board created by the Michigan Legislature to review children's foster care placements.

The Oakland County Foster Care Review Board, selected by the State Court Administrative Office, will meet one day a month beginning in November. The Oakland County Department of Social Services placed about 300 children in foster care during the past year due to abuse or neglect.

The board will review a representative sample of these cases to determine what efforts have been made by the Department of Social Services, Juvenile Court or private agencies with which the child has been placed to establish and carry out the plan for permanent placement.

BOARD MEMBERS are:

- Royden Jones, a Rochester Hills attorney, chairman. Prior to entering private practice, he was the first attorney-referee for the probate and juvenile court of St. Clair County for four years.
- Ernest Thomas, of Pontiac, vice chairman. He is a youth service worker at the Boy's and Girl's Club of Southeastern Michigan and is a volunteer case aid at Oakland County Children's Village.
- Claudia Love of Pontiac, a mother of eight children and former housemother for teenage mothers. She is a member of the Pontiac Citizens' Coalition.
- Patricia Woods, treasurer of Highland Township.
- David Galloway of Union Lake, a Pontiac police officer currently assigned as an investigator in the Youth Section.

State grant aids OU counseling degree

For the second straight year, the School of Human and Educational Services at Oakland University has received an \$18,000 matching grant from the state to support its master's program in counseling.

The program is entitled "School Counselor Education Program Improvement Project." OU must match the Department of Education funds for a project total of \$36,000.

Goals are strengthened programs for students in the master's in counseling curriculum and in-service workshops for counseling professionals in school or industrial settings.

HOWARD SPLETE of OU's School of Human and Educational Services said the master's in counseling course for winter will be expanded to provide an increased awareness of national, state and local exemplary practices including counselor qualifications and competencies.

The state funds will also be used to purchase a new microcomputer so that students can tap into the most current data in the Michigan Occupational Information System in Lansing.

In addition, Splete said the funds will help in developing an advanced class in career guidance implementation.

Winter and spring workshops are now being scheduled for the in-service program for counseling professionals, Splete said.

THESE PROGRAMS will be developed in cooperation with the Oakland Counselor Academy and the Oakland Association for Counseling and Development.

Splete is a professor in the counseling department and directs the school's free Adult Career Counseling Center.

The center provides computer-assisted career guidance systems and counseling services for adults who have been laid off or who are coming back into the work force.

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Irish topic: restoration

The Irish American Culture Institute will learn about the restoration of a 17th century country estate when it meets at 8 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 9, on the University of Michigan-Dearborn Campus.

Luke Dodd will present a color slide show on his renovation of Stroketown Park House in County Roscommon, Ireland. The house had been slated for demolition until a local businessman bought it and put Dodd in charge of restoration. The house will become a museum commemorating the famine of the 1840s in Ireland.

The meeting will be in the Gabriel Richard Campus Ministry Center of UM-D on Evergreen at Hubbard. It is open to the public. Donation is \$5. The group is a nonprofit foundation.

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