

# Miller to alter license bureau locations

BY TIM RICHARD  
STAFF WRITER

**SAN DIEGO** — She complained about it. Now she's trying to do fix it.

Michigan Secretary of State Candice Miller is looking for a motor vehicle records and voter registration office in Wixom. She looked at Novi, too, but wants a place "at a rent the state can afford" in western Oakland County.

"We're closing one office in Flint. We have to follow the demographics," she added in a chat during her pool party at Holiday Inn on the Bay for Michigan delegates to the Republican National Convention. Each guest received a blue-on-white beach towel with her name on it.

Earlier this year, Miller told the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments that the department she wrested from Democrat Richard Austin in 1994 had five offices in Flint (one per 28,000 in a Democratic stronghold) and zero in Novi and Wixom (population 41,000, pre-

**'I want to have the voter list running by the 1998 election cycle. Then we can think about mail-in voting.'**

**Candace Miller**  
Secretary of state

dominantly Republican).

That concentration of offices in Democratic areas can have political consequences because, under both Michigan and federal laws, motor vehicle offices must handle voter registrations, too.

Miller promised — in time — to bring mail-in voting to Michigan.

"Right now," she said, "there is up to 20 percent deadwood in some areas" — meaning people on the voter lists who have moved, died or otherwise been inactive.

Until a new computer system can give Michigan a "statewide clean voter list," she said, the state isn't ready for voting by mail. "You want to increase

voter participation, but you also have to assure the integrity of the system."

Voter fraud by mail is the subject of an entire gloomy chapter in a new book called *Dirty Little Secrets* by Sabato and Simpson, respectively a political scientist and Wall Street Journal investigative reporter.

"I want to have the voter list running by the 1998 election

cycle," said Miller. "Then we can think about mail-in voting — or even voting by touch-tone phone."

"At the National Association of Secretaries of State, there was a workshop on qualified voter files. We felt really good to report what we were working on. In the elections community, Michigan will be a role model."

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