Voter confusion in Meridian Township

Ingham County Clerk Barb Byrum attempts to resolve voter confusion caused by Meridian Township Clerk

MASON – Ingham County Clerk Barb Byrum (D-Onondaga) is addressing voter confusion that is occurring in Meridian Township due to the actions of Meridian Township Clerk Brett Dreyfus.

“It was brought to my attention on October 4 that Meridian Township Absent Ballot Voters received inaccurate ballot marking instructions when they received their absent voter ballot. At that point, I notified Meridian Township Clerk Brett Dreyfus and the Bureau of Elections about the error,” said Byrum. “Today, five days later, I have been alerted that Clerk Dreyfus sent emails to individuals, many of whom have not even requested an absent voter ballot concerning this error.”

Meridian Township ballot marking instructions included how to vote straight party; however, the US Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals ordered that the straight party voting ban take effect for the November 6 General Election.

“This straight party voting ban was communicated to municipal clerks, including Clerk Dreyfus on more than one occasion,” said Byrum. “I am concerned that Clerk Dreyfus has taken an already confusing situation—the inability to vote straight party—and managed to make it even more confusing to voters.”

Clerk Dreyfus blamed the error on his printer, Printing Systems, Incorporated, who has record of shipping 6,000 sheets of ballot instructions before the Court decision and another 1,000 after the straight party ban. “I find it concerning that Clerk Dreyfus has indicated that this is the fault of their printer, as it is his responsibility to read communications that are sent regarding upcoming
elections. Further, it is the Meridian Township Clerk’s responsibility to insert correct instructions with the absent voter ballot, prior to mailing said ballot to absent voters” Byrum stated. “Even the City of Lansing, who has already sent out over 8,000 absent voter ballots, copies ballot marking instructions in-house and did it with correct instructions.”

If anyone needs assistance or does not know how to contact your local municipal clerk, please call Ingham County Clerk Barb Byrum’s Office at (517) 676-7255 for assistance.

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