Michigan Association of County Clerks meet in Grand Rapids
MACC addresses emerging issues facing Michigan residents at their Quarterly Meeting

MASON – MACC President and Montcalm County Clerk Kristen Millard gathered with Michigan’s County Clerks for their March MACC Quarterly Meeting in Grand Rapids.

“These meetings create an opportunity to exchange ideas and best practices among Michigan’s 83 county clerks,” stated Millard. “We had robust conversations that we can now bring back to better serve our counties.”

With a packed agenda, some of the topics covered at the Quarterly Meeting were:

- A presentation by Michigan Bureau of Elections Director Sally Williams on the impact Proposal 3 will have on Michigan Elections
- A U.S. Department of Homeland Security presentation on election cybersecurity grant opportunities
- An introduction and Q & A session with newly elected Michigan Supreme Court Justice Megan Cavanaugh
- An update on Michigan’s Concealed Pistol Law by the Michigan State Police

Proposal 3 was adopted by Michigan voters in the November 2018 General Election by more than a two-to-one margin. Among its many provisions, it provides Michigan voters the option to vote by straight party, automatic voter registration when doing business at Secretary of State’s Offices, no-reason absentee voting, and voter registration up to and including Election Day.

“Every election is a test of our democracy,” stated MACC 3rd Vice President and Menominee County Clerk/Register of Deeds Marc Kleiman. “County Clerks are at the forefront of implementing Proposal 3, so that all qualified Michigan residents may register to vote and exercise the right to vote.”

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security addressed MACC concerning election cybersecurity grant opportunities. The emphasis of the grant funding will be for completion of detailed election system security assessments at the state, county, and local levels. Michigan is one of a handful of states to administer elections at the local level. County clerks serve as the chief elections official for their county, and therefore coordination of best practices is vital to ensure each election is secure and transparent.
“We must be steadfast in our commitment to protecting our election processes,” stated District V Director and Ingham County Clerk Barb Byrum. “While Michigan’s elections are already safe and secure, there is always more that can be done. Having grant opportunities to increase security and better communicate with the public will be crucial to maintaining confidence in the system.”

The purpose of the MACC is to bring about a closer working relationship among the County Clerks throughout the State, promote a better understanding of the duties of the office, and enhance the level of service that County Clerks provide to Michiganders.

For more information, please contact Ingham County Clerk Barb Byrum at (517) 676-7252.

###