



Summer 2010

Michigan Supreme Court Learning Center Educator Newsletter

CALENDAR

Sept 6	Labor Day (State Holiday)
Sept 15	Administrative Conference and Public Hearing*
	Access to Justice Exhibit Opens
Sept 17	Constitution Day
Oct 5-7	Oral Arguments*
Nov 2	Election Day
Nov 3-5	Oral Arguments*
Nov 10	Administrative Conference*
Dec 7-9	Oral Arguments*
Dec 15	Administrative Conference*

*Proceedings of the Michigan Supreme Court are broadcast on Michigan Government Television (MGTV). The State Bar of Michigan also archives proceedings online at www.michbar.org/courts/virtualcourt.cfm.

Qualifications for Michigan Judges/Justices

- Qualified elector of the district.
- Licensed to practice law in the State of Michigan.
- Five years of experience practicing law.
- Less than 70 years of age on the date of election.



Have You Made Your Tour Reservations?

Now Scheduling for 2010-11

Tours of the Michigan Supreme Court Learning Center are still available, but popular times are filling fast. Visits to the Learning Center align most closely with the following subjects:

- Michigan Studies.
- Government and Civics.
- Core Democratic Values.
- Topics in Law, History, or Government.
- Constitution Day.



Call 517-373-7171 to make a tour reservation today!

Election Day, November 2

State Judges and Justices on Non-Partisan Ballot

When Michigan voters go to the polls on November 2, they will select their judicial officers as well as other elected officials. This contrasts with judicial selection in the federal courts where judges are appointed for life by the President. Judges of the state's trial courts, such as District Court, Municipal Court, Circuit Court, and Probate Court, and judges of the Michigan Court of Appeals run for six-year terms while Michigan Supreme Court justices serve eight-year terms. ALL CANDIDATES FOR A JUDICIAL OFFICE run on the non-partisan ballot.

Judicial campaigns are sometimes more low-profile than those for partisan offices. In part, this is due to the ethical constraints placed upon judicial candidates as outlined by the [Michigan Code of Judicial Conduct](#). According to Canon 7, a "judge or candidate for judicial office should refrain from political activity inappropriate to judicial office." This canon regulates judicial campaigns and political activity, including the solicitation of campaign funds. It reminds all judicial candidates that they "should maintain the dignity appropriate to judicial office[.]" (Code of Judicial Conduct, Canon 7 (B)(1)(a)).



Proposal One: Should a Constitutional Convention Be Called?

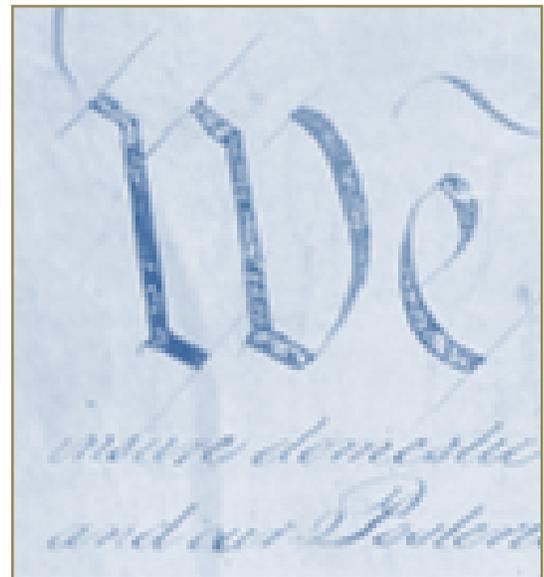
Every 16 years, a referendum asking whether the state constitution should be completely revised is posed on the general election ballot, as stipulated in Art. XII, §3, of the Michigan Constitution. The question will appear on the November 2 ballot as Proposal 1. If the proposal passes, a constitutional convention will be called to rewrite the entire constitution. Similar questions were posed and rejected in 1978 and 1994.

If the proposal passes, the convention would begin work in 2011. It would consist of 148 delegates – one from each state Senate and state House district. State legislators currently in office are precluded from serving as delegates. Once written, the constitution would then be subject to approval by the voters.



Fast Facts for Constitution Day Celebrate September 17

U.S. Constitution	Michigan Constitution of 1963
Signed September 17, 1787.	Written in 1961–62; adopted in 1963.
World’s oldest constitution still in effect.	Superseded the constitution of 1908. Michigan adopted previous constitutions in 1850 and 1835.
Defines the roles of the three branches of federal government.	Defines the roles of the three branches of state government.
The original fit on four handwritten sheets.	One current edition is 81 pages while an annotated copy is five volumes long.



Best of the Web CONSTITUTION DAY



Kindergarten to Grade 5 – Chief Justice Marilyn Kelly Reads *The U.S. Constitution* by Norman Pearl
<http://ustools.you-niversity.com/youtools/companies/mji/archivesLayout2.html>

In this 13-minute, pre-recorded webcast, Michigan Supreme Court Chief Justice Marilyn Kelly reads a book and discusses the Constitution with elementary students. Curriculum materials available online.

Middle School – iCivics.org
<http://www.icivics.org/>

Online games, lessons, and materials on civics subjects, including the Constitution.

High School – National Archives Teaching With Document
<http://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/revolution-new-nation.html>

Lessons about the new nation using primary sources, including the U.S. Constitution.

General – State Constitution, Michigan Legislature
<http://legislature.mi.gov/doc.aspx?mcl-chap1>

Searchable and printable versions of the Michigan Constitution of 1963.

General – U.S. Constitution, National Archives and Records Administration
<http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/charters/constitution.html>

Essays, online exhibit, images of the original document, and a printer-friendly transcript.