



Several Ballot Proposals will be Determined on Election Day

In addition to determining the winner of a very close gubernatorial race, Michigan voters will also decide the fate of five ballot proposals during the general election on Tuesday, November 7. To assist members when considering the proposals, the MMPA Board of Directors determined the cooperative's position on each proposal during our October board meeting.

The Michigan Milk Political Action Committee (MMPAC) endorsements are based on suggestions received from MMPA Advisory Committee members during their October 3 meeting, a review of written recommendations sent in by MMPA members, and through our own discussions during the October board meeting. MMPA's recommendations and a brief description of each proposal are listed below:

Proposal 06-1

A proposed constitutional amendment to require that money held in conservation and recreation funds can only be used for their intended purposes.

The amendment would:

- Create a Conservation and Recreation Legacy Fund within the state constitution and establish existing conservation and recreation accounts as components of the fund.
- Use current funding sources, such as state park entrance and camping fees; snowmobile, ORV and boating registration fees; hunting and fishing license fees; taxes and other revenues to fund accounts.

- Establish the current Game and Fish Protection Fund and the Nongame Fish and Wildlife Fund within the state constitution.

MMPAC supports a YES vote on Proposal 06-1.

Proposal 06-2

A proposal to amend the state constitution to ban affirmative action programs that give preferential treatment to groups or individuals based on their race, gender, color, ethnicity or national origin for public employment, education or contracting purposes.

The amendment would:

- Ban public institutions from using affirmative action programs that give preferential treatment to groups or individuals based on their race, gender, color, ethnicity or national origin from public employment, education or contracting purposes. Public institutions affected by the proposal include state government, local government, public colleges and universities, community colleges and school districts.
- Prohibit public institutions from discriminating against groups or individuals due to their gender, ethnicity, race, color or national origin. (A separate provision of the state constitution already prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin.)

MMPAC holds a NEUTRAL position on Proposal 06-2.

Proposal 06-3

A referendum on Public Act 160 of 2004 - an act to allow the establishment of a hunting season for mourning doves.

Public Act 160 of 2004 would:

- Authorize the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) to establish a hunting season for mourning doves.
- Require a mourning dove hunter to have a small game license and a \$2 mourning dove stamp.
- Stipulate that revenue from the stamp must be split evenly between the Game and Fish Protection Fund and the Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund.

Require the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to address responsible mourning dove hunting; management practices for the propagation of mourning doves; and participation in mourning dove hunting by youth, the elderly and the disabled in the DNR annual hunting guide.

MMPAC supports a YES vote on Proposal 06-3.

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**Election Day
November 7**

**See pages 10-11 for
a complete listing of
MMPAC Endorsements**

Neighbor to Neighbor

This month we introduce a new feature: *Neighbor to Neighbor*, a special area for MMPA members to share tips and ideas with other members. If you have an idea you would like to share please send it to: *Messenger Tips*, MMPA., P.O. Box 8002, Novi, MI 48376. If your tip is printed in the *Messenger*, your name will be entered in a monthly drawing for a free MMPA hat.

➤➤➤ When mounting any size tire, use vise grips or a clamp to hold tire from slipping on rim.

➤➤➤ To clean milker units or inflation shells: load items into a barrel or tub and add hot water and pipeline soap. Place an air line into the barrel with 5-10 lbs. psi. The bubbles will scrub them clean quickly.

➤➤➤ Place reflective tape on elevators and augers to prevent damage from trucks or feed wagons bumping into them.

➤➤➤ Use a sump pump float to turn a light on to warn you of flooding in the basement, well pit, etc.

➤➤➤ To find an electrical short in a vehicle, place a test light between the negative cable and the negative battery post. The light will be lit when the short is present. Remove fuses until light goes out to locate short.

➤➤➤ To make tightening barn cleaner paddles easier, weld an appropriate sized socket to a T bar that is long enough to tighten nuts without bending over.

➤➤➤ To keep double sliding doors closed tight, bolt two bars on an angle opposite of each other. Attach a chain to both. When chain slides down, door closes tighter.

This month's tips submitted by MMPA Member Bill Stakenas, of FreeSoil, Mich.

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Proposal 06-4

A proposed constitutional amendment to prohibit government from taking private property by eminent domain for certain private purposes.

The amendment would:

- Prohibit government from taking private property for transfer to another private individual or business for purposes of economic development or increasing tax revenue.
- Provide that if an individual's principal residence is taken by the government for public use, the individual must be paid at least 125 percent of the property's fair market value.
- Require the government entity that takes a private property to demonstrate that the taking is for a public use; if taken to eliminate blight, require a higher standard of proof to demonstrate that the taking of that property is for a public use.
- Preserve existing rights of property owners.

MMPAC supports a YES vote on Proposal 06-4.

Proposal 06-5:

A legislative initiative to establish mandatory school funding levels.

The proposed law would:

- Increase current funding by approximately \$566 million and require the state to provide annual funding increases equal to the rate of inflation for public schools, intermediate school districts, community colleges, and higher education (includes state universities and financial aid/grant programs).
- Require the state to fund any deficiencies from the General Fund.
- Base funding for school districts with declining enrollments on a three-year student enrollment average.
- Reduce and cap the retirement fund contribution paid by public schools, community colleges and state universities; shift the remaining portion to the state.
- Reduce the funding gap between school districts receiving basic per-pupil foundation allowance and those receiving maximum foundation allowance.

MMPAC supports a NO vote on Proposal 06-5 because it would be

very costly on the state's budget, which could inadvertently cause more budget cuts for the Michigan Department of Agriculture. A likely scenario would reduce MDA's budget to \$28.5 million, down from the current \$30 million budget, which is half of the \$60 million allocated just six years ago.

The Senate Fiscal Agency estimates that the Proposal 06-5 would cost \$566 million in the first year and increase to more than \$1 billion in subsequent years. Michigan's current budget could not afford to fund this law without either finding additional revenue sources or cutting spending in other areas of state government. It is likely that Legislators would attempt to reduce spending before attempting to raise taxes.

MMPA's complete Political Action Committee Recommendations can be found on page 10 of this issue. A list of MMPAC endorsed candidates and proposals was also sent to all members in mid-October.

If you have any questions or concerns about MMPA's political action process or endorsement procedure, please contact me in the Novi office.