



# SATURDAY IS THE LAST DAY TO GET AN ABSENTEE BALLOT

## The State News

### ELECTION

## LAW PROHIBITS POLITICAL GEAR FROM VOTING LOCATIONS

By Kelly House  
THE STATE NEWS

Voters must leave behind politically motivated buttons, banners and baseball caps when they step inside the voting booth Nov. 4, a Michigan Court of Appeals judge ruled Tuesday.

U.S. District Judge Patrick Duggan ruled that the Michigan Secretary of State's practice of banning campaign paraphernalia within 100 feet of a polling location is acceptable to ensure order at the polls.

"Campaign solicitors are not allowed within 100 feet of any door being used by voters to enter the building where a polling place is located," East Lansing City Clerk Nicole Evans said.

The decision comes after the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Council 25 sued the Michigan Secretary of State, claiming the practice violates free speech rights.

A spokesperson for the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees could not be reached for comment Wednesday.

"This was never an effort to squash enthusiasm, but to preserve the sanctuary of the polling place on Election Day and, in essence, create an environment for voters to be able to cast their ballots without feeling that they're being pressured," Secretary of State spokeswoman Kelly Chesney said.

Chesney said the law has been on the books since the

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## PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE

Some internships aim to keep college graduates in state for careers; statewide Web site in works

By Jeff Kanan  
THE STATE NEWS

**B**alancing class, work and an internship might seem like a difficult task, but international relations sophomore Ari Ginez said students shouldn't hesitate to do it. "I'd definitely recommend this — it's a great experience," said Ginez, who began interning at the Michigan Department of Information Technology this semester. "It's definitely a plus when you're in school but still establishing contacts."

A productive workplace where students learn applicable business tactics and business owners benefit from having a young and fresh perspective is what Patri Jones envisioned when she began working on internship initiative through the Detroit Regional Chamber.

As the director of the Regional College Talent Retention Initiative, Jones is working with several other companies and administrators throughout the state to develop a central Web site, [www.interninmichigan.com](http://www.interninmichigan.com), where students and employers can interact and post the latest position openings.

Developers hope the site will be up by Jan. 1, in time for students to find summer internships, and Jones said she hopes about 25,000 internships will be created in the next few years by centralizing internship searches and creating more opportunities.

"Students are leaving — we know that from surveys — and employers need help," Jones said. "We're working to bridge the divide. The need for students to consider interning early is very important since employers are going to use that as a way to see what students have been doing."

With an economy that has fallen to astronomical lows, there's a strong



SAM RUIZ/THE STATE NEWS

International relations sophomore Ari Ginez is an intern for the Michigan Department of Information Technology, which handles all technological aspects for all branches of the state government. Ginez has had two internships and says that once she graduates she would like to stay in Michigan and work in the government system.

need to keep recent graduates in the state, said Lou Glazer, president of Michigan Future Inc., a nonprofit organization that works to create new ideas for Michigan's economic future.

"There's a general pattern over the past 15 or 20 years that more college students are moving out of the state than moving in," Glazer said.

All of Michigan's 83 counties saw increases in unemployment in the past year, according to the Michigan Department of Labor and Eco-

nomics Growth's September report, released Oct. 23.

Glazer said the driving force behind internship development is that students can go on to receive full-time jobs with the company afterward.

"You don't know until you try it, but we think that's the way of the future," Glazer said.

The quality of internships has, for the most part, increased over time as students are generally getting to

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### More internships?

**Yearly unemployment rates** have increased in all of Michigan's 83 counties.

**Michigan policymakers** hope to create 25,000 internships in the next couple of years to keep recent graduates in Michigan.

**A new Web site**, [www.interninmichigan.com](http://www.interninmichigan.com), will aim to centralize internship opportunities.

**For MSU students**, the Web site [www.myspartancareer.com](http://www.myspartancareer.com) has information concerning students and employers in the hunt for internship opportunities.

SOURCE: THE STATE NEWS

### 2008 ELECTION

## CANDIDATES SHAPE POLICIES, FIND FOOTING

Obama might lack experience, but some experts, students think he's ready to lead

By Zack Colman  
THE STATE NEWS

When John McCain was beginning his first stint in the U.S. House of Representatives, Barack Obama was enjoying life as a 27-year-old political science junior at Columbia University.

Now 47 years old, Obama has yet to finish his first U.S. Senate term, but many students said they think he is ready to be the nation's president.

"If you're a good candidate, you're a good candidate," said Erica Christensen, an anthropology freshman. "A politician for 20 years or 10 years doesn't make a difference to me."

The American people have elected less experienced and younger candidates to the White House before. Abraham Lincoln served one term in the U.S. House of Representatives, run-



Obama

ning for president 11 years after his term ended. John F. Kennedy, who was elected president at 43, served three terms in the U.S. House of Representatives and two in the U.S. Senate.

But U.S. Rep. Mike Rogers, R-Brighton, said Obama hasn't proven anything in his Senate term because he has spent much of it campaigning. Rogers, who is serving his fourth term in the U.S. House of Representatives and running for his fifth, said Obama has no record.

"His biggest accomplishment in the U.S. Senate is writing two memoirs and running for U.S. president," Rogers said. "He doesn't impress me as someone who has taken the time to learn about what affects people's lives."

"He has not spent any time in the U.S. Senate and that should concern people."

Douglas Roberts, director of the Institute for Public Policy and Social Research, or IPPSR, said experience is important,

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Experts: McCain moves to the right on issues to suit conservative voting base; some independent voters could be turned off

By Zack Colman  
THE STATE NEWS

Some students and experts said John McCain's political tilt might need to be recalibrated to win the election, as the Republican presidential candidate has cost himself many undecided voters as his views move increasingly to the right.

McCain made a name for himself in the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate by being a self-annointed "maverick," opposing his party on key issues and acting in a bipartisan manner. He has called for campaign finance reform against his party's best wishes, promoted tackling global climate change before most Republicans and initially opposed President Bush's 2001 tax cuts.

Experts note, however, McCain's shift to the right is nat-



McCain

ural for any serious presidential candidate, as they must appease their party to receive the nomination. McCain, experts said, actually began aligning with more conservative elements in his party as early as 2004.

The Rev. Keith Butler, Michigan's Republican committeeman, said he initially held reservations about McCain's social values. Any wariness about that was calmed when McCain chose Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin as his running mate, who Butler said energized a party that was deft of excitement.

"With his pick of Sarah Palin for vice president, that sealed the deal for me and a lot of people in the party," Butler said. "It showed his commitment to conservative values and to the party."

Bill Ballenger, editor and publisher of Inside Michigan Politics, said McCain might have made a judgment error by appealing to the more conservative portions of the Republican Party. It turned off the more plentiful independent voting

demographic, he added.

"If he's driving away a bunch of people who weren't maybe wildly enthusiastic about him but would have voted for him over (Barack) Obama, there's two or three times as many of these tepid voters than those fired up ones on the right," Ballenger said. "He's going to lose."

But McCain's conservatism is nothing new, said Matt Grossmann, an MSU assistant political science professor and national elections expert. He said people might be surprised by some of McCain's stances, such as his anti-abortion ideology, because of a myth that McCain is a moderate.

"He built on that maverick image, that he will break with his party," Grossmann said. "The press has sometimes interpreted that to mean he is a moderate."

McCain's more tangible ties with the religious right this election represents a change in his

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### SEX

**MSU moves up in a sexual health ranking released by Trojan. The State News sits down with a new sexual health educator to talk about it, page 3A.**

### CITY

**Two East Lansing proposals about the sale of land and a parking garage will appear on the November ballot, page 3A.**



Weather

Partly cloudy  
High 56° | Low 42°  
Three-day forecast, page 2A