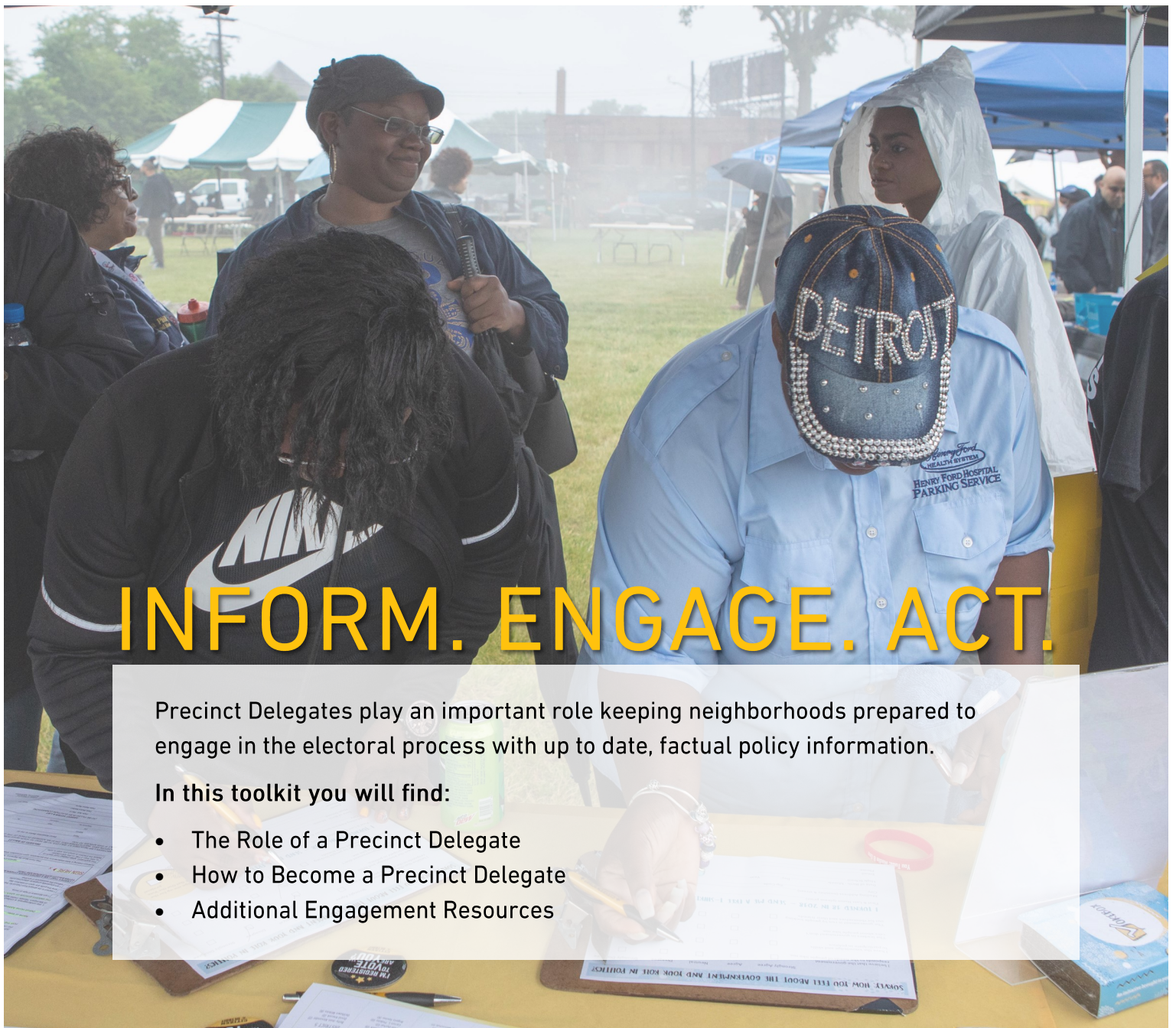




# TOOLKIT

## Get EngageD!

### The Role of Precinct Delegates



# INFORM. ENGAGE. ACT.

Precinct Delegates play an important role keeping neighborhoods prepared to engage in the electoral process with up to date, factual policy information.

In this toolkit you will find:

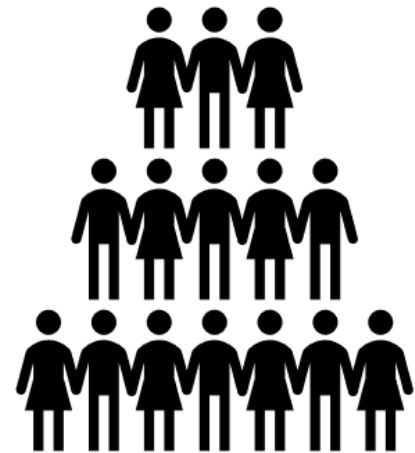
- The Role of a Precinct Delegate
- How to Become a Precinct Delegate
- Additional Engagement Resources

CitizenDetroit's **EngageD** programming connects Detroiters with opportunities to take civic action that shapes our city and improves our democracy. So as part of EngageD we are taking time to inform you about the role of the Precinct Delegate. **CitizenDetroit is a non-partisan 501c3 and cannot support candidates, we hope only that this toolkit helps you feel empowered to make decisions about how your community is represented and kept informed.** Whether you choose to become a precinct delegate candidate or simply use this information to better engage the precinct delegates who represent you, this toolkit should help you learn the importance of this role and the opportunity it provides to build a better informed community.

# A Precinct Delegate is a grassroots elected official.

Precinct Delegates have the opportunity to bring factual, trustworthy information to the front line of our democracy—information that directly impacts the conditions in your neighborhood, on your block, and on your street. It is an opportunity to help to empower your neighbors to make informed decisions during and between elections.

Even as we face the COVID-19 pandemic and the challenges that it has brought to us, our neighbors and communities, the 2020 elections continue to unfold, and the 2021 elections—when we will make decisions about critical local offices—are fast approaching. Next year, we will elect a mayor, city council members, a city clerk, and police commissioners, to name a few of the public officials who will be on the ballot. **Precinct Delegates who are elected this year will play an important role keeping voters informed during these elections.**



One of the things that makes our democracy great is that there are progressive levels of government—beginning with Precinct Delegates—that carry our voices to the higher levels of government, which have varying degrees of access to resources that can help meet the needs of our communities. Precinct Delegates can bring the direct voices of our communities to State party officials whom we ask to represent our voices in Michigan and in Washington, D.C.

This toolkit is designed to help you understand the role of a precinct delegate, better engage precinct delegates, and empower you, should you decide, to begin your candidacy to become a precinct delegate. We hope it will help you as you consider this opportunity to be involved in the process of electing the people who will determine the on-going policies that will govern our city and state.

# What is in This Toolkit?

|  |    |
|--|----|
| I. All About Precinct Delegates.....   | 4  |
| II. What About My Precinct?.....       | 6  |
| III. What Do I Need to Do to Run?..... | 7  |
| IV. Important 2020 Election Dates..... | 8  |
| V. Voting Rights as of 2019.....       | 9  |
| VI. Informational Resources.....       | 11 |

*Our ultimate objective in learning about anything is to try to create and develop a more just society than we have seen.*

*-Yuri Kochiyama*

# All About Precinct Delegates

## What is a Precinct Delegate?

Precinct Delegates are *the* grassroots representatives within a political party. The process to select nominees for the highest offices in the nation begins at the grassroots level with the election of Precinct Delegates and the education of voters.

Precinct Delegates are elected by the voters in each precinct—the small geographic areas that organize groups of voters—and serve to connect the voters in your neighborhood with the political parties in your city, county, and state. Each Precinct Delegate represents their neighborhood at Party meetings and county conventions. County conventions, in turn, elect delegates to State Party conventions.

During presidential election years such as 2020, Delegates at the state party convention elect Delegates to the national party convention, and it's the delegates at the national party convention who select the party's presidential and vice-presidential nominees.



Precinct Delegates have important role within their political parties and becoming a Precinct Delegate is a great way to begin involvement in elected politics. More importantly, as individuals elected by their communities, their first responsibility is to the voters—**keeping voters informed and prepared for elections is the first responsibility.**

## What do Precinct Delegates do?

Precinct Delegates are dedicated to community outreach, and help to win elections for their political party. Each party has their own focus for delegate activities, however **you should expect your Precinct Delegate(s) to:**

- Help voters register to vote
- Help turn-out the vote on election days
- Help elect candidates that support your precinct's agenda
- Recruit new precinct delegates
- Keep Party leaders informed about the issues of voters in your precinct
- Bring information from Party leaders about issues and candidates to the voters in your precinct
- Recruit new Party members
- Participate in County Conventions of the Party to which they are elected

**Precinct Delegates have the opportunity to make sure residents are educated about policy and elections overall.** If the Precinct Delegates in your precinct are active, you should expect to see them not only at local Party meetings, but at community meetings, block club and neighborhood meetings—anywhere they can find out the priorities of the community and help to keep everyone informed.

## How are Precinct Delegates elected?

Electing Precinct Delegates is in part based on Michigan State Law. Because Precinct Delegates are partisan positions, they appear on the ballot if and only if their respective political parties have qualified for the ballot (see information about qualifying below).

### For political parties that qualify:

Precinct delegates are elected every two years during August Primary Elections. **The 2020 Primary Election is on August 4th.**



Each precinct has at least one Delegate from each qualified party but a precinct can also have many delegates. Contact the political party of your choice to find out about the numbers of delegates allocated to each precinct.

## Qualifications for Precinct Delegates

- ☑ A Precinct Delegate candidate must be at least 18 years of age by the filing deadline (in 2020, May 5th).
- ☑ Candidates must be registered to vote in the city of Detroit.
- ☑ Candidates must be residents within the precinct for which they are a candidate.
- ☑ Precinct Delegate candidates must file a notarized Affidavit of Identity, in duplicate, with the County Clerk **by May 5, 2020** in order for their name to be included on the Primary Election ballot. There are no petition requirements or filing fees.



## Will my political party appear on the ballot?

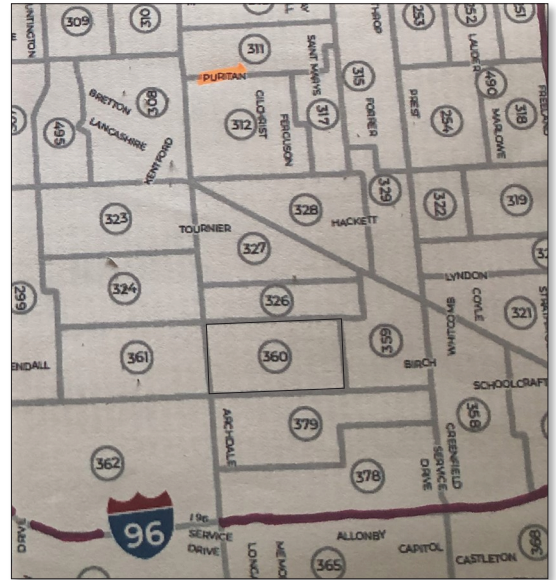
According to Michigan Law (MCL 168.532), political parties will appear on the August Primary Ballot based on the number of votes received by the candidate whose name appeared nearest the top of the party's column in the last election. That candidate had to have received at least 5% of the total number of votes cast for the office of Secretary of State. Eligibility for the 2020 August Primary is based upon the November 2018 ballot and the top of the ticket was the office of Governor. If your chosen party is not on the ballot in August, work with them directly to better understand how they select individuals for precinct roles.

# What's A Precinct, and Which One Do I Live In?

A precinct is the smallest geographical political unit in our democratic elections process. There are more than 500 precincts in the city of Detroit. Precinct delegates are the most direct voice of the people in their precincts. They know the issues of importance to the residents in their precinct, and bring those issues and concerns to the elected officials who develop policies that respond to the needs of the people they represent in the state and federal governments.

You can find your precinct number on your voter registration card or by visiting [www.Michigan.gov/vote](http://www.Michigan.gov/vote).

Complete the “Find Your Polling Place” Form and your precinct number will be included in the results.



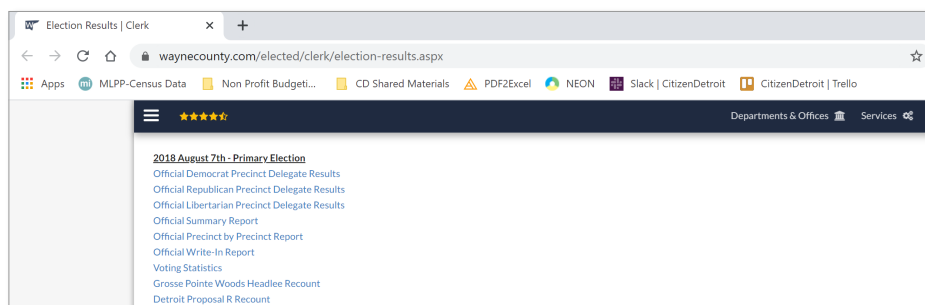
If you're interested in the boundaries of your precinct, check out **this Map of Detroit Precincts:** [https://detroitmi.gov/sites/detroitmi.localhost/files/2019-07/election\\_precincts2018.pdf](https://detroitmi.gov/sites/detroitmi.localhost/files/2019-07/election_precincts2018.pdf)

Precincts are small and the map is large, so you'll have to zoom in to see the boundaries of your precinct more clearly. When using the digital map, click the plus-sign (+) in the lower right hand corner to zoom in and enlarge the map.

## Who is My Precinct Delegate?

Even though precincts cover small geographical areas—especially compared with the sizes of districts represented by other elected offices—some of them have many precinct delegates. Some areas have seats allocated for precinct delegates, but they're vacant. After you've identified your voting precinct, the best way to find out if you have Precinct Delegates representing you and who they are is to review the most recent election results.

Those results can be found on the [Wayne County Clerk's website](http://www.waynecounty.com/elected/clerk/election-results.aspx). <https://www.waynecounty.com/elected/clerk/election-results.aspx>



# I'm Interested in Becoming a Precinct Delegate... What Do I Need to Do Next?

1. Become a member of the Party of your choice (legally optional, but membership will serve to keep you informed about party activities, news, updates, webinars, etc.). The two parties that are eligible for the August Primary are:

- ★ Michigan Democratic Party: [www.michigandems.com](http://www.michigandems.com)
- ★ Michigan Republican Party: [www.migop.org](http://www.migop.org)

Find information for all the parties that are eligible to have candidates for various offices on the November ballot with the

2. You must file a notarized Affidavit of Identify with the Wayne County Clerk. The notarized Affidavit certifies that you are who you say you are on the affidavit.

- Your affidavit must be notarized and filed by mail with the Wayne County Clerk **by 4 p.m. on May 5, 2020.**
- Your Affidavit of Identity Form is here: [Affidavit of Identity](https://www.michigan.gov/documents/Aff-ID_Precnt_139901_7.pdf)  
[https://www.michigan.gov/documents/Aff-ID\\_Precnt\\_139901\\_7.pdf](https://www.michigan.gov/documents/Aff-ID_Precnt_139901_7.pdf)
- The Bureau of Elections will accept electronically/remotely notarized Affidavits of Identity. You can use a paid service such as Notorize.com or search the internet for notary services near you.



*Consider talking with people who have served as Precinct Delegates in the past or who are currently serving to learn more about the role and their experiences.*

# Important 2020 Election Dates

May 5, 2020 Deadline to file notarized Precinct Delegate Affidavit of Identity by 4:00 p.m.

May 8, 2020 Deadline to withdraw filing by 4:00 p.m.

## **Tuesday, August 4, 2020 Primary Election**

*Register to vote any time leading up to and including election day.*

August 11, 2020 Deadline for County Clerk to notify precinct delegates who were elected

August 12-29 Democratic and Republican Parties hold fall county conventions

September 4 Deadline for Democrat and Republican Parties to hold fall state conventions (if they haven't already)

## **General Election Day, November 3, 2020**

*Register to vote any time leading up to and including election day.*

**Register to vote by mail, by visiting the Department of Elections, or on election day at a satellite voting location.**

City of Detroit Department of Elections

2978 W. Grand Blvd.

Detroit, MI 48202

313-876-0190



# Michigan Voting Rights as of 2019

Compared with other states, Michigan laws make voting quite accessible and the passage of Proposition 3 in 2019 further expanded those laws. However, many people are not aware of their rights. **We all, no matter our roles, must make sure our community members know when and how to vote.**

- ★ When getting a new drivers' license, renewing your license, or taking any other action with your license at the Secretary of State, you'll be automatically registered to vote.
- ★ You can register to vote AND vote the same day as the election at satellite voting locations.
- ★ Anyone can vote absentee by mail ahead of election day.
- ★ Anyone can "In-person absentee" vote the weeks before election day at satellite voting locations.
- ★ Felons and those awaiting trial have the right to vote. Only those currently serving sentences are unable to vote.
- ★ When voting in person, you are asked for your I.D. but not required to have I.D. to vote.

## Detroit's Satellite Voting Locations

|   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| Wayne County Community College-Northwest<br>8200 W. Outer Drive | Wayne County Community College-Downtown<br>801 W. Fort Street | Farwell Recreation Center<br>2711 E. Outer Drive             |
| Northwest Activity Center<br>18100 Meyers                       | Coleman A. Young Building/City Clerk's Office                 | Wayne County Community College-Eastern<br>5901 Connor Street |
| Adams Butzel Recreation Center<br>10500 Lyndon Street           | Department of Elections<br>2978 W. Grand Boulevard            |  |



**The most  
important job I  
ever had was a  
precinct captain.**

**President Harry S. Truman**

# RESOURCES

## Wayne County Clerk

<https://www.waynecounty.com/elected/clerk/elections.aspx>

Coleman A. Young Municipal Center  
2 Woodward Ave., Room 502  
Detroit, MI 48226  
313-224-6262

## Detroit City Clerk

<https://detroitmi.gov/government/city-clerk>

Coleman A. Young Municipal Center  
2 Woodward Ave., Suite 200  
Detroit, 48226  
313-224-3260

## Department of Elections

<https://detroitmi.gov/departments/elections>

2978 W. Grand Blvd.  
Detroit, MI 48202  
313-876-0190

## Michigan Bureau of Elections

<https://www.michigan.gov/sos/0,4670,7-127-1633---,00.html>

Richard H. Austin Building - First Floor  
430 W. Allegan  
Lansing, MI 48918  
517-335-3234 or 800-292-5973  
Mail to: P.O. Box 20216, Lansing, MI 48901

## Filing Requirements for Precinct Delegates

<https://www.waynecounty.com/elected/clerk/voter-applications.aspx>

# Political Party Information

The partisan organizations below have all qualified to appear on the November ballot. Contact them directly to learn more about their convention processes and how to get involved.

|  |   |
|--|---|
|  <p>Democratic Party of Michigan<br/>Lavora Barnes, Chair<br/>606 Townsend<br/>Lansing, MI 48933<br/>517-371-5410</p>             |  <p>Republican Party of Michigan<br/>Laura Cox, Chair<br/>520 Seymour St.<br/>Lansing, MI 48933<br/>517-487-5413</p>                                  |
|  <p>Green Party of Michigan<br/>Paul Homeniuk, Chair<br/>P.O. Box 2754<br/>Grand Rapids, MI 49501<br/>313-815-2025</p>           |  <p>U.S. Taxpayers Party of Michigan<br/>William Mohr, Chair<br/>31 North Tippy Dam Road<br/>P.O. Box 38<br/>Wellston, MI 49689<br/>248-687-8377</p> |
|  <p>Libertarian Party of Michigan<br/>Greg Stempfle, Chair<br/>P.O. Box 27065<br/>Lansing, MI 48909<br/>info@michiganlp.org</p> | <p>No Logo Available</p> <p>Working Class Party<br/>Larry Christenson, Chair<br/>P.O. Box 2033<br/>Detroit, MI 48202<br/>contact@workingclassparty.org</p>  |
|  <p>Natural Law Party<br/>Doug Dern, Chair<br/>13541 Austin Court<br/>Hartland, MI 48353<br/>248-889-0610</p>                   |   |

# Sources

1. **Michigan Legislature**, “Michigan Election Law Act 116 of 1954 Sections 168.532-623a.” <http://www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/mcl/pdf/mcl-act-116-of-1954.pdf>
2. **Michigan Department of State**, “Filing Requirements for Precinct Delegates 2020 Election Cycle.”
3. **Michigan Department of State**, “2020 Michigan Election Date Booklet.” [https://www.michigan.gov/documents/sos/2020\\_Elec-Dates-Booklet\\_ED-12\\_10-09-19\\_668275\\_7.pdf](https://www.michigan.gov/documents/sos/2020_Elec-Dates-Booklet_ED-12_10-09-19_668275_7.pdf)
4. **City of Detroit Department of Elections**, <https://www.detroitmi.gov/departments/elections>
5. **Michigan Bureau of Elections**, “Election Officials’ Manual: Chapter 5 Precinct Delegate Candidates.” [https://www.michigan.gov/documents/sos/V\\_Precinct\\_Delegate\\_Candidates\\_265988\\_7.pdf](https://www.michigan.gov/documents/sos/V_Precinct_Delegate_Candidates_265988_7.pdf)
6. **State of Michigan Bureau of Elections**, “State of Michigan Political Party Status August 4, 2020 Primary, November 3, 2020 General Election.” [https://www.michigan.gov/documents/sos/Political\\_Party\\_Status\\_482649\\_7.pdf](https://www.michigan.gov/documents/sos/Political_Party_Status_482649_7.pdf)

*Political Party logos sourced from first from local party websites , then Facebook pages where available.*

## Additional Resources

The next two tools are to help you with community engagement—whether you choose pursue the Precinct Delegate role or other community engagement efforts.

If you picked up this toolkit you must be interested in community engagement. Common tools that you see from election campaigns are actually great for connecting with your neighbors to organize around any issue from starting a block club to hosting a meeting about a neighborhood concern.

### The next two tools provided are:

- A door hanger, and
- An event flyer

You can print these and add to them any information you think is critical. When setting up an event flyer don't forget to include a title for the event under the "What" section and information about why the event or its subject matter is important under the "Why" section.

On both tools, remember to provide contact information for people to reach you. Offer your direct contact information or set up an email address special for your community engagement efforts and share that.

Hopefully these tools help you in your efforts to build community.

*Sorry I Missed You*

Write a message about why you visited.



Be sure to add your name.

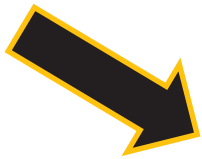


Include the date you visited.



A large rectangular form template for a Precinct Delegate. The form is divided into several sections: a large empty circle at the top right, a checkmark icon in a square box on the left side, a yellow horizontal bar with the text "More Information" in the center, and a large empty space at the bottom for additional text.

**Add any key information here and how to contact you.**







*Join Us!*

**WHAT:**

**Hosted by:** \_\_\_\_\_

**When:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Where:** \_\_\_\_\_

**WHY?**

**Contact For More Information**

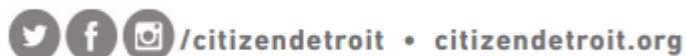


**We empower Detroiters to be critically engaged in civic life and shape our city.**

CitizenDetroit is non-partisan, 501c3 that supports the civic engagement of Detroiters with factual educational materials and civic engagement opportunities.

**We envision Detroit as the most civically engaged city in the nation.**

Visit [www.citizendetroit.org](http://www.citizendetroit.org) for more information.



Visit our website to sign up for our newsletter!