



[New Search](#) [Return to results](#) [Printer Friendly](#)

Royal Oak Review (MI)

City clerks expect low turnout for Election Day

JEREMY CARROLL C & G Staff Writer

Published: October 28, 2009

ROYAL OAK/ **CLAWSON** - Clerks in both **Clawson** and Royal Oak expect low turnouts when voters hit the polls during municipal elections on Nov. 3. In similar elections in 2007, Royal Oak saw a 17.8 percent voter turnout and **Clawson** had 22 percent of registered voters cast their ballots.

"I'm definitely hoping for more of a turnout for this election," said Royal Oak Clerk Melanie Halas. "I want a bigger turnout, but I guess we'll have to see." **Clawson** Clerk Machele Kukuk agreed.

"There is always a chance that more people will turn out, but we don't know," she said. "It's a shame." She said absentee ballots are being returned at levels typically seen during every election.

"We have a permanent list that they ask to be on, so they pretty much vote in every election," Kukuk said.

On the ballot in Royal Oak are two ballot questions, four candidates are running for three City Commission seats, Mayor Jim Ellison is running unopposed, and there are three school board candidates running for two open seats.

The issue that has gained the most attention is the ballot question proposing a two-year ban on the transfer of liquor licenses into the city.

The second issue on the ballot is a proposed charter amendment that would allow the city to publish just a summary of a new ordinance in a newspaper circulating in the city and allow the full language to appear online. The current charter forces the entire ordinance to be published.

With current commissioners Gary Lelito and Carlo Ginotti deciding to forgo a re-election run, and Stephen Miller resigning his seat months earlier, the commission will get three new members after the election. Vying for the seats are Andrew Androff, Patricia Capello, Dave Poulton and James Rasor.

For Royal Oak Neighborhood Schools, Carrie Beerer, Jeffrey Brinker and Arthur Makarewicz are vying for two four-year seats. Longtime board members Kevin McLogan and Christine Hartwig both are not seeking a fourth term on the board.

In **Clawson**, there will be a contested mayoral race, where incumbent Penny Luebs is being challenged by former Council member Kurt Hack. There are five candidates for two council seats. Council members Tom Palmer and Kathy Phillips are seeking re-election, and are being challenged by Mike Bolger, Ethan McClure and Tim Simon. Despite being on the ballot, Simon has asked voters not to vote for him.

There is also one ballot question for **Clawson** voters. The question asks if voters would like to shift sewer debt payments from their water bill to their tax bill. City officials have said because of tax breaks, the shift would actually cost less for most residents in the city.

In Royal Oak, Halas said they are asking those who vote in Precinct 22 at Emmanuel Bethel Church to use the front entrance of the building. It's a change from previous municipal elections where the back door was used, she said. Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Election Day.

You can reach Staff Writer Jeremy Carroll at jcarroll@candgnews.com or at (586) 279-1110.

Copyright, 2009, Royal Oak Review (MI), All Rights Reserved.

E-mail this article to:

add message:

Archives Technical Questions: For technical assistance, please send an email to cgnewspapers@newsbank.com.

Advertiser Times • Birmingham-Bloomfield Eagle • Eastsider • Fraser-Clinton Chronicle • Grosse Pointe Times • Journal • Macomb Chronicle
Madison-Park News • Rochester Post • Royal Oak Review • St. Clair Shores Sentinel • Shelby-Utica News • Southfield Sun • Sterling Heights Sentry
Troy Times • Warren Weekly • West Bloomfield Beacon • Woodward Talk • Eastside Shopper

[Home](#) | [About Us](#) | [Calendar](#) | [Classifieds](#) | [Class Reunions](#) | [Dateline](#) | [News Archives](#) | [Neighbors In The News](#) | [Advertising Information](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Legal Notices](#)
[Link to Us](#) | [Webmail Login](#) | [Employee Login](#) | [Assignment Ware](#) | [FTP Login](#)