

# **THE JACOBS REPORT**

**GILDA Z. JACOBS**

**MICHIGAN SENATE**

**Assistant Democratic Floor Leader**

**FOURTEENTH DISTRICT**

**For Immediate Release**  
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## **MICHIGAN CLOSING PRIMARIES**

### **Citizens Will Have to Declare a Party to Vote**

State Democratic and Republican party leaders have agreed to close Michigan's presidential primary system in an effort to stop Democrats from voting in Republican primaries and vice-versa.

For the 2008 election, all primary voters will be required to publicly declare his or her party before voting. Both parties plan to hold their primaries on the same day.

A draft bill legalizing the change has been given to the House Speaker's office.

Michigan has experimented with a closed primary system in the past. Voter backlash led to its repeal.

## **21st CENTURY JOBS FUND FINALISTS TO BE ANNOUNCED**

### **179 Proposals Make the Next Round**

Governor Jennifer Granholm announced that the list of 465 eligible 21st Century Jobs Fund proposals was culled to 179 finalists.

The fund, a centerpiece of the Granholm Jobs Today, Jobs Tomorrow economic stimulus plan, attracted 505 applicants, of which the Strategic Economic Investment and Commercialization board (SEIC) certified all but 40 as eligible candidates.

A complete list of finalists will be on the Michigan Economic Development Corporation's website later this morning. The site can be found at: <http://www.michigan.org/>.

Final award decisions will be announced in September, after finalists interview with the American Association for the Advancement of Sciences, which is conducting the review process.

## **CAPTIONED TELEPHONE SERVICE NOW AVAILABLE**

### **CapTel Statewide**

The Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) announced that AT&T, the state's approved Telecommunication Relay Provider, is now offering Captioned Telephone (CapTel) Service for hard of hearing individuals in Michigan. CapTel service is available to all telephone customers in Michigan.

For a limited time, the CapTel telephone needed for this service is available for a reduced price of \$99 (normally \$495).

CapTel makes using the telephone as easy as using a standard telephone. It allows the user to listen to and read word-for-word captions of their conversation. It is especially useful for individuals who have good speech but do not hear well over the phone.

“The CapTel service is vital to individuals who have difficulty hearing what the other party says,” noted MPSC Chairman J. Peter Lark. “My fellow Commissioners and I are pleased that the CapTel phone is now available to Michigan customers.”

Those Michigan residents interested in the CapTel service or products can call toll-free 1-800-233-9130 (V/TYY) or visit the Web site: <http://www.weitbrecht.com/statecaptel/MI.phtml>.

The MPSC last year approved an application by the Michigan Relay Center Advisory Board to allow SBC Michigan, now known as AT&T Michigan, to offer enhanced access to switched telecommunications networks through the use of CapTel for the hearing impaired. The cost to ratepayers for providing this service is \$0.01 per wireline per month. The MPSC reviews the costs and is authorized to review future cost recovery requests under the Michigan Telecommunications Act.

The MPSC is an agency within the Department of Labor & Economic Growth.

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All Michigan legislation can be tracked at <http://www.legislature.michigan.gov/>.

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State Senator Gilda Jacobs represents the 14<sup>th</sup> Senate District, which includes Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms, Farmington, Farmington Hills, Ferndale, Franklin, Hazel Park, Huntington Woods, Lathrup Village, Oak Park, Pleasant Ridge, Royal Oak Township, Southfield, and Southfield Township. She is the Minority Vice Chair of the Families & Human Services Committee and the Economic Development, Small Business & Regulatory Reform Committee. She also serves on the Government Operations and Health Policy Committees.

**Constituents of the 14<sup>th</sup> District may contact Senator Jacobs at [sengjacobs@senate.michigan.gov](mailto:sengjacobs@senate.michigan.gov) or toll-free at 1-888-937-4453.**

This newsletter is produced in single-space form in order to save paper and transmission costs.

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