

STATE SENATOR • JOHN J. GLEASON • 27TH DISTRICT

Gleason Press Release

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Senator Gleason Addresses Fate of Fenton Secretary of State, Vows to Continue Efforts to Keep Open

LANSING-Sen. John Gleason (D-Flushing) held a press conference today outside the Fenton Secretary of State Office to provide an update on the branch's status, address rumors that Secretary of State Terri Lynn Land is fast-tracking the office shutdown, and discuss additional strategies for saving the office.

"This office and the good people of Fenton who use it are being treated like a pawn by Terri Lynn Land," said Gleason. "Her rumored efforts to accelerate the branch closing are political retaliation, not sound policy, and she must be using some pretty fuzzy math if she thinks the office closing is being driven by economics."

The Fenton Secretary of State office was among a list of prospective office closings recently announced by Secretary of State Terri Lynn Land. In the past two years, almost a quarter of a million people have used this branch. Last year, the office had 104,532 transactions and made more than \$11 million in collections. The annual savings through consolidating the office with another in Clarkston is \$28,467.

Two weeks ago, Senator Gleason led a successful bipartisan effort to pass legislation that restores funding for the Secretary of State offices across Michigan that have been threatened to close, including the Fenton branch. The bill hasn't been signed into law yet, and there are rumors that the political opposition to these proposed closings has led the Secretary of State to put the process on the "fast-track."

Any decisions on the fate of the Fenton Secretary of State will have to go through the Michigan Department of Management and Budget, which oversees all other state department budget and expenditures. Currently, the Fenton lease expires on September 30, 2008 and requires a 180 day notice for early termination.

"Once begun, the closing of one branch property and opening of another would take six months to a year to complete," said Edward Woods III, from the Michigan Department of Management and Budget.

The complete closing of one branch property and opening of another location includes locating properties and accepting bids, and the Attorney General has to approve the

Lease terms and final approval must be obtained from the State Administrative Board. The Fenton branch closing would be the second in Genesee County in just a few short years. In 2005, Genesee County lost a branch in Flint.

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