168.341 Elective township offices and officers.

Sec. 341. Elective township offices shall consist of a supervisor, township clerk, township treasurer, not to exceed 4 constables, and not to exceed 4 trustees. Elective township officers may include library directors and park commission members.


Popular name: Election Code

168.342 Township office; eligibility; eligibility for membership on board of review.

Sec. 342. A person is not eligible to a township office unless the person is a registered and qualified elector of the township in which election is sought by the filing deadline. A person is not eligible for membership on the board of review unless, in addition to the qualifications for eligibility to a township office, the person is a landowner and taxpayer in the township.


Popular name: Election Code


Compiler's note: The repealed section pertained to township caucus, nominating procedure, and certification of candidates.

Popular name: Election Code


Compiler's note: The repealed section pertained to membership in township political party committee.

Popular name: Election Code


Compiler's note: The repealed section authorized referendum to determine choice between township caucus and primary system.

Popular name: Election Code

168.345 Candidates for township offices; nomination at primary.

Sec. 345. A primary of all political parties shall be held in every organized township of this state on the Tuesday succeeding the first Monday in August preceding every general November election, at which time the qualified and registered electors of each political party may vote for party candidates for township offices.


Popular name: Election Code

168.346 Primaries; inspector of elections, appointment.

Sec. 346. The township board of election commissioners shall appoint 3 or more qualified and registered electors of such township for each precinct, who shall act as inspectors of election at such primary.


Popular name: Election Code

168.347 Primaries; provisions governing; recounts; duties of township clerk.

Sec. 347. Except as otherwise provided in this act, the laws governing nominating petitions, the conduct of general primary elections, the furnishing of ballots, and the depositing, counting, and canvassing of ballots shall, as near as may be, apply to primaries held under the provisions of this chapter. Recounts shall be conducted by the board of county canvassers. All duties that, under the parts of this act relating to general elections or primary elections, fall upon the county clerk shall be performed in the same manner by the township clerk.


Popular name: Election Code
Compiler's note: The repealed section pertained to notice, publication, and posting of primary elections.
Popular name: Election Code

168.349 Candidate for township office; nominating petitions; signatures; form; filing fee in lieu of nominating petitions; refundability; forfeiture of deposits; list of candidates.
Sec. 349. (1) To obtain the printing of the name of a person as a candidate for nomination by a political party for a township office under the particular party heading upon the official primary ballots, there must be filed with the township clerk nominating petitions signed by a number of qualified and registered electors residing within the township as determined under section 544f. Nominating petitions must be in the form prescribed in section 544c. The township clerk shall receive nominating petitions up to 4 p.m. of the fifteenth Tuesday before the August primary.
(2) To obtain the printing of the name of a candidate of a political party under the particular party's heading upon the primary election ballots in the various voting precincts of the township, there may be filed by the candidate, in lieu of filing nominating petitions, a filing fee of $100.00 to be paid to the township clerk. Payment of the fee and certification of the candidate's name paying the fee are governed by the same provisions as in the case of nominating petitions. The fee must be deposited in the general fund of the township and must be refunded to candidates who are nominated and to an equal number of candidates who receive the next highest number of votes in the primary election. If 2 or more candidates tie in having the lowest number of votes allowing a refund, the sum of $100.00 must be divided among them. The deposits of all other defeated candidates, as well as the deposits of candidates who withdraw or are disqualified, are forfeited and the candidates must be notified of the forfeiture. Deposits forfeited under this section must be paid into and credited to the general fund of the township.
(3) Within 4 days after the last day for filing nominating petitions or a filing fee, the township clerk shall deliver to the county clerk a list setting forth the name, address, and political affiliation and office sought of each candidate who has qualified for a position on the primary ballot.

Popular name: Election Code

Compiler's note: The repealed section pertained to qualification for printing of new parties on official ballot.
Popular name: Election Code

Compiler's note: The repealed section required township clerk to certify nominees in absence of contest for office.
Popular name: Election Code

168.351 Candidates for nomination; withdrawal, notice.
Sec. 351. After the filing of a nominating petition or filing fee by or on behalf of a proposed candidate for a township office, the candidate is not permitted to withdraw unless a written notice of withdrawal is served on the township clerk not later than 4 p.m. of the third day after the last day for filing nominating petitions or a filing fee as provided in this act, unless the third day falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, in which case the notice of withdrawal may be served on the clerk up to 4 p.m. on the next secular day.

Popular name: Election Code

168.352 Candidate for township office; death; selection of candidate to fill vacancy; ballots.
Sec. 352. If a candidate of a political party for a township office, after having qualified as a candidate, dies after the last day for qualifying, leaving the political party without a candidate for a township office, a candidate to fill the vacancy may be selected by the members of the county executive committee of the candidate's political party residing in the township if 3 or more members of the county executive committee of that political party reside in the township. If less than 3 members of the county executive committee of that political party reside in the township, the county executive committee of that political party may select a candidate to fill the vacancy for that office. The name of the candidate selected shall be transmitted to the township officials required by law to print and distribute ballots. The name of the candidate shall be printed on the ballots, but if the ballots have been printed, the township officials shall have the ballots reprinted with...
the candidate’s name on the ballots and the reprinted ballots shall be distributed to the various voting precincts within the township.


**Popular name:** Election Code

### 168.353 Primaries; absent voters, provisions applicable.

Sec. 353. The provisions of this act relative to absent voters shall apply to primaries held under the provisions of this chapter: Provided, That the duties of the county clerk relative to the furnishing and distribution of ballots shall be performed by the township clerk.


**Popular name:** Election Code

### 168.354 Candidate for township office; write-in.

Sec. 354. If, for any reason, the number of candidates of a political party to a township office is equal to less than the total number to be nominated and elected, a sufficient number of blank spaces shall be provided on the official primary ballots that affords every elector to the political party an opportunity to vote for as many candidates as are to be nominated and elected by writing in the name or names of his or her selection.


**Popular name:** Election Code

### 168.355 Candidates for township offices; nominees, certification; list.

Sec. 355. (1) The candidate or candidates of each political party to a township office receiving the greatest number of votes cast for candidates of that office, as set forth in the report of the board of county canvassers, based on the returns from the various election precincts, or as determined by the board of county canvassers as the result of a recount, shall be declared the nominee or nominees of that political party for that office at the next ensuing November election. The board of county canvassers shall certify the nomination or nominations to the township clerk within 48 hours after the polls close.

(2) Within 4 days following the primary, the township clerk shall deliver to the county clerk a list setting forth the names, addresses, political affiliation, and office sought of all candidates nominated at the primary.


**Popular name:** Election Code


**Compiler’s note:** The repealed section authorized abandonment of primary system for nominating township candidates.

**Popular name:** Election Code

### 168.357 Candidate for township office; death or disqualification; write-in.

Sec. 357. If a candidate of a political party, after having been nominated for a township office, dies, moves from the township, or becomes disqualified for any reason, the township board of election commissioners shall provide a blank space or spaces on the official ballots that affords every elector of the political party an opportunity to vote for a candidate to fill the vacancy by writing in the name of his or her selection.


**Popular name:** Election Code

### 168.358 Election of township officers and submission of propositions; general November election.

Sec. 358. (1) In every township, there shall be a general November election in each even-numbered year for the election of officers and the submission of propositions, as provided by law. At the 1980 general November election, there shall be elected by ballot all of the following township officers:

- (a) A supervisor.
- (b) A clerk.
- (c) A treasurer.
- (d) Two trustees.
- (e) Not more than 4 constables.
- (f) If authorized by law and after a township takes the actions provided in section 11 of 1877 PA 164, MCL 397.211, 6 free public library directors.
- (g) If a township takes the actions provided in section 1 of former 1931 PA 271 or section 6 of 1905 PA 157, MCL 41.426, the number of park commission members provided for under section 6 of 1905 PA 157,
MCL 41.426.

(2) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the order of offices on the township portion of the ballots shall be the same as the order in which the officers are listed in subsection (1). Free public library directors shall be listed on the nonpartisan portion of the ballot.

(3) Subject to the limitation in subsection (1), the number of constables to be elected at the 1992 general November election and each general November election at which township offices are regularly to be elected after 1992 shall be determined by the township board by resolution not less than 6 months before the township primary election preceding the general November election. The resolution that specifies the number of constables to be elected applies in that township until a subsequent resolution is adopted altering that number. If a determination as to the number of constables to be elected is not made by the township board by the deadline under this subsection for the 1992 general election, the number of constables to be elected shall be the same number that was elected in that township in the 1988 general November election until a resolution is adopted to provide for the election of a different number of constables.

(4) In a township having a population of 5,000 or more, or having 3,000 or more qualified and registered electors as shown by the registration records at the close of registration for the last preceding general November election, there may be elected 4 trustees. In other townships there shall be 2 trustees. A township shall not elect 4 trustees unless the election of additional trustees is approved by the voters at a general November election or by a majority of the voters attending at an annual meeting. The township board of a township having a population of 5,000 or more, or having 3,000 or more qualified and registered electors, shall cause the question of electing additional trustees to be voted on at the first general November election or annual meeting following the township's qualifying for additional trustees. If a majority of the electors voting on the question vote in favor of electing 4 trustees, the township shall thereafter elect 4 trustees. If a majority of the electors voting on the question do not vote in favor of electing 4 trustees, the township board may resubmit the question at a subsequent general November election or annual meeting or the question shall be submitted at the first general November election or annual meeting held not less than 84 days following the submission of a petition containing the signatures of not less than 10% of the registered and qualified electors of the township, as shown by the registration records at the close of registration for the last general November election, asking that the question be submitted.

(5) At the first general November election in a township held not less than 4 months after the provisions of this section relative to additional trustees are adopted by a township, there shall be elected the number of trustees necessary to make a total of 4 trustees. If the additional trustees are elected at a general November election that is not a regular township election, the additional trustees shall hold office only until a successor is elected at the next regular township election and qualifies for office.

(6) This section does not prohibit townships electing 4 trustees as of September 13, 1958 from continuing to do so.


168.358a Special election; purpose; notice.

Sec. 358a. The township board of a township may call a special election to be held in the township for the purpose of submitting a ballot question to the electors of the township. A special election shall be held on a regular election date. Notice of the special election shall be given in the same manner required by section 653a.


Compiler's note: The repealed section required township board to make certificate of election and deliver same to clerk.


Popular name: The repealed section pertained to filing of statement and determination of election results by township board of canvassers.

Popular name: Election Code

Compiler's note: The repealed section pertained to annual meeting of township electors.

Popular name: Election Code

168.362 Township officers; terms; qualification; vacancy; election; commencement of duties; failure to take oath.

Sec. 362. (1) The term of office of township trustees elected in 1978 shall be 2 years. The term of office of all township officers listed in section 358 shall be 4 years beginning in the 1980 general election, and in all subsequent elections at which township officials are elected. All township officers' terms shall commence at 12 noon on November 20 next following their election and they shall qualify before assuming the duties of their office. Each township officer shall hold office until a successor is elected and qualified, but not beyond January 1 following the election. Failure of an elected township official to qualify by January 1 following the official's election shall create a vacancy which shall be filled as provided in section 370. All elective township officers, other than those listed in section 358, shall be elected at the November election immediately preceding the expiration of their term and shall commence the duties of their office on November 20 but not before they qualify following their election.

(2) A township officer elected in the general election shall remain in office for the full term if the officer failed to take the oath of office within the time prescribed by law and was subsequently appointed by the township board to the office for which the officer ran.


Popular name: Election Code

168.363 Township officers; oath of office.

Sec. 363. All township officers shall, before entering upon the duties of their offices, take and subscribe the oath as provided in section 1 of article 11 of the state constitution before the township clerk or other officer authorized to administer oaths, and file the same with the township clerk who shall record the same; and such oath shall be administered without reward and certified by the officer before whom the same was taken, with the date of taking the same.


Popular name: Election Code

168.364 Township treasurer; bond, approval, filing.

Sec. 364. Each township treasurer, within the time limited for filing his oath of office and before he shall enter upon the duties of his office, shall give a bond to the township in such sum and with such sureties as the supervisor shall require and approve and the supervisor shall endorse his approval thereon. It shall be the duty of such treasurer to file within the time above mentioned said bond with the township clerk of such township, who shall record the same in a book to be provided for that purpose. The township clerk shall, after recording same, deliver the bond to the supervisor who shall file it in his office.


Popular name: Election Code

168.365 Constables; bond.

Sec. 365. Every person elected or appointed to the office of constable, before he enters upon the duties of his office and within the time prescribed by law for filing his official oath, shall execute, with sufficient sureties to be approved by the supervisor or clerk of his township, an instrument in writing by which said constable and his sureties shall jointly and severally agree to pay to each and every person who may be entitled thereto all such sums of money as the said constable may become liable to pay on account of any neglect or default of said constable in the service or return of any process that may be delivered to him for service or collection or on account of any misfeasance of the said constable in the discharge of, or failure of, said constable to faithfully perform any of the duties of his office.


Popular name: Election Code

168.367 Resignation of township officer.
Sec. 367. Resignation of a township officer shall be in writing, signed by the officer resigning, and addressed to the township board, and shall be delivered to and filed by the township clerk.


Popular name: Election Code

168.368 Events creating vacancy in township offices.
Sec. 368. The township offices become vacant upon the happening of any of the following events: Death of the incumbent; his resignation; his removal from office for cause; his ceasing to be a resident of the township where his office is located; his conviction of an infamous crime, or of an offense involving the violation of his oath of office; the decision of a competent tribunal declaring his election or appointment void, habitual drunkenness; his refusal or neglect to take and subscribe to the oath as provided in section 2 of article 16 of the state constitution and deposit the same in the manner and within the time prescribed by law; his refusal or neglect to give bond in the amount and manner and within the time prescribed by law; or the failure of the office to be filled at an election which is scheduled for the purpose of filling the office.


Popular name: Election Code

168.369 Removal of township officer; grounds; service of charges; hearing; effect of removal.
Sec. 369. The governor shall remove a township officer chosen by the electors of any township, when the governor is satisfied from the evidence submitted that the officer has been guilty of official misconduct, wilful neglect of duty, extortion, habitual drunkenness, or has been convicted of being drunk, or when it appears by a certified copy of the judgment of a court of record of this state that the officer, after the officer's election or appointment, was convicted of a felony. The governor shall not take action upon the charges made against the officer until the charges are exhibited in writing, verified by the affidavit of the party making the charges that the party believes the charges to be true. The officer shall not be removed for misconduct or neglect until charges of the misconduct or neglect are exhibited to the governor as provided in this section, a copy of the charges served on the officer, and an opportunity given to the officer of being heard in his defense. The service of the charges upon the officer shall be made by handing to the officer a copy of the charges, together with the affidavits or exhibits which may be attached to the original petition if the officer can be found; if the officer cannot be found a copy shall be left at the last place of residence of the officer with a person of suitable age, if a person can be found. If a person cannot be found, a copy shall be posted in a conspicuous place upon the officer's last known place of residence. An officer who has been removed in accordance with this section shall not be eligible for election or appointment to an office for a period of 3 years after the date of removal from office.


Popular name: Election Code

168.370 Elective or appointive township office; appointment to fill vacancy; temporary appointment; effect of resignation; special election; vacancy in office of township constable.
Sec. 370. (1) Except as provided in section 370a or subsection (2), if a vacancy occurs in an elective or appointive township office, the vacancy shall be filled by appointment by the township board, and the person appointed shall hold the office for the remainder of the unexpired term.

(2) If 1 or more vacancies occur in an elective township office that cause the number of members serving on the township board to be less than the minimum number of board members that is required to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business by the board, the board of county election commissioners shall make temporary appointment of the number of members required to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business by the township board. An official appointed under this subsection shall hold the office only until the official's successor is elected or appointed and qualified. An official who is temporarily appointed under this subsection shall not vote on the appointment of himself or herself to an elective or appointive township office.

(3) If a township official submits a written resignation from an elective township office, for circumstances other than a resignation related to a recall election, that specifies a date and time when the resignation is effective, the township board, within 30 days before that effective date and time, may appoint a person to fill...
the vacancy at the effective date and time of the resignation. The resigning official shall not vote on the
appointment.

(4) Except as provided in subsection (5), if the township board does not make an appointment under
subsection (3), or if a vacancy occurs in an elective township office and the vacancy is not filled by the
township board or the board of county election commissioners within 45 days after the beginning of the
vacancy, the county clerk of the county in which the township is located shall call a special election within 5
calendar days to fill the vacancy. Not later than 4 p.m. on the fifteenth calendar day after the county clerk
calls a special election under this section, the township party committee for each political party in the
township shall submit a nominee to fill the vacancy. The special election shall be held on the next regular
election date that is not less than 60 days after the deadline for submitting nominees under this section or 70
days after the deadline for submitting nominees under this section if the next regular election date is the even
year August primary or the general November election. Notice of the special election shall be given in the
same manner required by section 653a. A special election called under this section does not affect the rights
of a qualified elector to register for any other election. A person elected to fill a vacancy shall serve for the
remainder of the unexpired term.

(5) Subsection (4) does not apply to the office of township constable. If a vacancy occurs in the office of
township constable, the township board shall determine if and when the vacancy shall be filled by
appointment. If the township board does not fill the vacancy by appointment, the office of township constable
shall remain vacant until the next general or special election in which township offices are filled.


Compiler’s note: Enacting section 4 of Act 71 of 2005 provides:
"Enacting section 4. If any portion of this amendatory act or the application of this amendatory act to any person or circumstances is
found invalid by a court, the invalidity shall not affect the remaining portions or applications of this amendatory act that can be given
effect without the invalid portion or application, if the remaining portions are not determined by the court to be inoperable, and to this end
this amendatory act is declared to be severable."

Popular name: Election Code

168.370a Filling vacancy in township office; term of appointee; term of elected successor.

Sec. 370a. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 370, if a vacancy occurs in an elective or appointive
township office, which vacancy is filled by appointment by the township board or the board of county
election commissioners and the vacancy occurs more than 7 days before the nominating petition filing
deadline as provided in section 349 for the general November election that is not the general November
election at which a successor in office would be elected if no vacancy, then the person appointed shall hold
office only until a successor is elected at the next general November election in the manner provided by law
and qualifies for office. The successor shall hold the office for the remainder of the unexpired term.


Popular name: Election Code

168.371 Township officers; primary election, recount of votes.

Sec. 371. The votes cast for any candidate to a township office at any primary or election shall be subject
to recount as provided in chapter 33 of this act.


Popular name: Election Code

168.372 Township officers; recall.

Sec. 372. Any person elected to a township office shall be subject to recall as provided in chapter 36 of this
act.


Popular name: Election Code

168.373 Township clerk; appointment of substitute to perform election law duties.

Sec. 373. If neither the township clerk nor any deputy township clerk shall be available to perform any
necessary functions in connection with registrations, nominations or elections during the usual or required
times for performing such functions, the township board shall appoint some qualified person who is a
registered elector of the township to perform such functions until such time as the clerk or a deputy resume
their duties. Any such person so appointed shall have all of the powers and authority of a deputy appointed by
the clerk pertaining to registrations, nominations and elections.


Popular name: Election Code