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OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

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Pontiac City Clerk Teams Up with the Center for Tech and Civic Life to Invest in Pontiac's Safe Voting Plan and holds forum on What Every Voter needs to Know
Project Will Support Vote by Mail, Poll Worker Training and Recruitment and Voter Initiatives

Pontiac & CTCL Partnership Press Conference
10:00 a.m. City Hall
or join virtually

<https://zoom.us/j/92421014182?pwd=Q3UrMFhhL1pod2VtdEY4UE9JTm5adz09>

Interim City Clerk Garland Doyle announced today they have successfully secured a \$405,564 grant from the Center for Tech and Civic Life (CTCL) to fund the Pontiac Safe Voting Plan. The grant awarded by CTCL a nationally-recognized nonpartisan 501(c)(3) nonprofit will help Pontiac administer the November election this year in the midst of the deadly coronavirus pandemic.

The national recession that accompanied the pandemic has now caused serious budget challenges for municipalities across the country. "As a result, the Clerk's Office was struggling with how to conduct a safe and accessible election without putting a strain on the city's budget – especially if a second wave of coronavirus erupts this fall", stated City Clerk Doyle.

To meet this extraordinary challenge, Doyle applied for grant funds from CTCL to create the "Pontiac Safe Voting Plan" and support elections operations. This grant program enables cities to prepare for and operate safe elections by investing in priorities that would otherwise be challenging to accomplish – such as securely opening an adequate number of voting sites; setting up drop box locations; providing PPE for poll workers; and recruiting and training a sufficient number of poll workers.

"Election departments are facing an unprecedented challenge of administering safe and secure elections that provide healthy voting options to the public," said **Center for Tech and Civic Life Executive Director Tiana Epps-Johnson**. "To meet this challenge, CTCL is providing support to Pontiac election officials so no voter is required to make a choice between their health and their ability to vote. From ensuring that polling places are following the latest public health guidelines to making options available for voters to participate, to protecting those who step up to serve as poll workers, we're proud to partner with Pontiac to deliver a smooth voting process that inspires confidence."

Website: <http://pontiaccityclerk.com>



Pontiac City Clerk



PontiacClerk



Pontiac City Clerk



Pontiac City Clerk

City Clerk Doyle stated that the CTCL grant will fund the following:

- Additional temporary office staff to handle the influx of absentee voter applications & ballots
- Extended weekday and weekend office hours in October
- Mailing to 36,000 residents informing them that they can vote absentee
- 7 Drive Up Drop Boxes and 24 hour surveillance of the drop boxes
- Security improvements to our website **pontiacityclerk.com** and the expansion of online services for voters
- Pontiac City Clerk Service Team
 - Team Members will be deputized so they can pick up ballots from the elderly or residents who are unable to make it to a dropbox. The Service Team will also be responsible for retrieving ballots from the dropboxes. They will be available to deliver ballots to voters if necessary as well.
- Voter Initiatives to improve voter turnout
- Poll Worker online training modules

Since becoming the City Clerk in October 2018, Doyle has been working to improve the administration of elections and the voter experience in the city. **The City Clerk is hosting the What Every Voter Needs to Know to Vote in Pontiac Virtual Forum on September 15, 2020 at 11:00 a.m.**

City Clerk Doyle stated “I am committed to residents knowing all their options to vote safely. My office is working to ensure everyone can vote.” **The City Clerk is holding a press conference prior to the forum on September 15, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. at City Hall to announce the partnership with CTCL.**

The Center for Tech and Civic Life (CTCL) is a nationally-recognized, nonpartisan 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization of civic technologists, trainers, researchers, election administration and data experts working to help modernize U.S. elections. CTCL connects election officials with guidance, expertise, tools, and trainings so they can best serve their communities, and ensure that elections are more professional, safe, and secure. CTCL works with the federal government, as well as local and state governments of all sizes across the nation and administrators, and develop infrastructure to better operate elections. (<https://www.techandciviclife.org/>)



**Office of the City Clerk
Garland Doyle, M.P.A, Interim City Clerk
“Working to Ensure Everyone Can Vote”
2020 Voter Initiatives**

Vote Pontiac Matters! Campaign



PONTIAC MATTERS!

The campaign will consist of media ads, mini-billboards and yard signs. Outreach will include a citywide mailing of a newsletter with information on registering to vote, requesting an absentee ballot and returning ballots to drop boxes of the clerk’s office. The campaign will establish partnerships with 7 community partner organizations. There will be one community partner organization for each of the 7 voting districts in Pontiac. The community partner organization will work with the Clerk’s Office to promote the campaign and increase voter registration and turnout in the district that they have been assigned too.

Pontiac Votes Community Challenge



COMMUNITY CHALLENGE

“Pontiac Votes Community Challenge” resulted from a program the Secretary of State’s office launched to identify and focus on low performing voting precincts across the state. Pontiac has four precincts that are on the state top 100 low turnout list. The citywide challenge seeks to increase turnout in each of the four precincts.

Your One Vote Matters

A voter equity, diversity and inclusion initiative



Pontiac is a diverse community than includes sizeable Hispanic and Hmong populations that vote in numbers below their proportion of the registered voters. Your Vote Matters is an initiative to encourage turnout by a variety groups including Hispanics, Hmong and African Americans.

Website: <http://pontiaccityclerk.com>





Office of the City Clerk

Join **Garland Doyle, Interim City Clerk**
for

**What every voter needs to know to
vote in Pontiac**

**September 15, 2020 11:00 a.m.
Virtual Questions & Answers Forum**

Use the link to join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/98304188955?pwd=VjlmcENpRVVo4ZVVVNZ1R5T2RjdWYyUT09>

Or

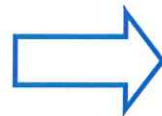
Phone Number: (312) 626-6799

Meeting ID: 983 0418 8955

Passcode: 189304

For more information email clerk@pontiac.mi.us

Absentee Ballots will be mailed starting September 24, 2020



Website: <http://pontiaccityclerk.com>



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Vote by absentee or at the polls on Election Day November 3, 2020