

EASTSIDE REPUBLICAN REVIEW

A PUBLICATION OF THE EASTSIDE REPUBLICAN CLUB

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January 2020

Mackinac Center's Jarrett Skorup to Talk About Legislative Issues

Critical Michigan legislative issues will be the topic as Jarrett Skorup of the Mackinac Center for Public Polity speaks to the ERC at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 21, at the War Memorial.

Skorup is director of marketing and communications at the Center, which is headquartered in Midland.



"As the Mackinac Center is an aggressive advocate of government transparency and accountability, we look forward to Mr. Skorup's legislative update and learning about opportunities to promote positive change in Lansing," said chairman Dave Schumacher in a statement.

"The Forum is open to the public at no charge, so we invite anyone interested in influencing state government to hear from Mr. Skorup and to ask questions," Schumacher added.

In addition, ERC members will elect 2020 officers and board members at the Jan. 21 meeting.

Forum doors open at 7 p.m. for coffee and networking in advance of the meeting.

For three decades, the Mackinac Center has championed freedom through its research, educational programs, investigative journalism and litigation.

In his role at the Center, Skorup leads marketing efforts, media strategy, and oversees policy campaigns and objectives.

Since joining in 2009, Skorup's work has been featured in *The Wall Street Journal*, Fox News, National Public Radio, MLive, *Detroit News*, *Free Press*, and newspapers across the country.

He is a graduate of Grove City College with degrees in history and political science. While there, he captained the school's wrestling team.

A native of Illinois, Skorup is an avid Chicago sports fan, officiates high school wrestling, and enjoys fishing and woodworking. He volunteers with his church, serves on local Chamber of Commerce committees, and volunteers through Junior Achievement in the schools.

Skorup lives in Midland with his wife, Karen, and their three children.

The Eastside Republican Club Forum meets on the third Tuesday each month from September through May at the War Memorial. Admission is free and the public is always welcome. Stay up-to-date and "like" the ERC on Facebook.

James Running for U.S. Senate in 2020

By Tori Sachs

One candidate encompasses the American Dream and is capable of leading a movement he has inspired. President Trump has called John James a "rising star." James, 38, is running against first-term Sen. Gary Peters in Michigan, a race considered a top pickup opportunity for Republicans in what will be a key 2020 battleground state for the president.

John James is a West Point graduate who flew Apache attack helicopters in the Iraq War and is now a CEO, husband and dad. James received 1.9 million votes in his first-ever political campaign in 2018. Now with a

James continued on page 2



John James with two fans at 2018 ERC-PAC dinner.



James continued from page 1

higher profile, a large, grassroots donor base, and unlikely to face a primary challenge, polls show James only one percentage point behind Peters.

James has lived the American Dream. His father, John Sr., grew up across the street from Mississippi State University and couldn't go there because he was black. A Vietnam veteran, John Sr. started a trucking company in Detroit that has grown into a multimillion-dollar supply-chain logistics company. He is the son of a mason, who was the son of sharecropper, who was the son of a slave.

Only one generation after Jim Crow, John James feels that building upon his ancestors' legacy by lifting more people up through economic and educational opportunity is his obligation to continuing the American Dream.

"In this country, when you refuse to accept victimhood and dependency as your destiny, great things can happen," James said in a 2018 interview.

His 2018 Senate race was a shoestring operation, starting out with no name ID, infrastructure or donors. After putting together an enthusiastic team of "Co-Pilots"—whose energy fueled his primary victory against a self-funder who spent \$5 million on the August primary—James set his sights on three-term incumbent Debbie Stabenow. With well-attended rallies, relatable social media and hard work, James closed a 23-point deficit to just six. He was the largest Republican vote getter in Michigan in 2018 – after receiving little support from national organizations.

James' energy, passion and ability to bring people together to accomplish the mission make him the person who can excite, grow, and lead a new, more diverse generation of Republicans. He's already showing the strength of his movement by out-raising incumbent Gary Peters for the last two quarters.

"I didn't come back from war to see this divisiveness or hate. I didn't fight for Democrats or Republicans, I fought for Americans. I don't have a black or white message—I have a red, white, and blue message,"

James said in a Fox News appearance during his 2018 race. His focus on American values, unity, and self-determination—which resonates with moms like me—is in stark contrast to that of Democrats who use race and gender as the ultimate political dividing tools.

It's no secret that our party is less "diverse" than it could be. But Republicans are now the exclusive party of the American Dream, a party that believes capitalism is better than socialism, that every person has value, and the ability to succeed if given a fair shot – not just free stuff. A fair shot starts with education and economic opportunity.

John James started his elementary education in Detroit public schools and went on to earn a bachelor's degree from West Point, a master's from Penn State, an MBA from the University of Michigan and now serves on the board of a successful public charter school in the city. He understands educational opportunity.

James Group International, his family company headquartered in southwest Detroit, grew from \$37 million a year in revenue to over \$135 million a year—adding 100 jobs in just five years under John's leadership. That is the definition of creating economic opportunity.

The Republican Party's future—and more importantly, America's future—will be bright if we rally behind candidates like John James and others who have lived the American Dream, understand service, and the key to long-lasting success: opportunity for all.

Tori Sachs is president of Regina Strategies, a political and PR consulting firm. A Michigan mother of three young daughters, she was 2018 campaign manager for John James for U.S. Senate.

"Thank You!" to 2019 ERC Hospitality Sponsors!

By Marie Hackleman

Your kind, enthusiastic sponsorship makes it possible to offer cookies, coffee and tea at our Forums—creating a warm, welcoming atmosphere for all!



A big "thank you!" to our 2019 ERC hospitality sponsors!

John Chouinard, John Daniele, Janine Kateff, Adele Kerske, Kathleen Koppin, Mike Nolan, Andrew & Susan Richner, Charlie Rutherford, Bob Sejfulla, Jim & Evlyn Willems, and Mary Zeock.

Who will be a hospitality sponsor in 2020? Will you? To sponsor cookies and/or coffee and tea for a 2020 Forum (or team up with a friend to split a sponsorship), let me know at one of our monthly Forums (or email: chair@eastside-republican-club.org).



**Hear Henry Payne Feb. 18
On Cars, Cartoons and Communications**

This Princeton University history grad—Henry Payne—has spent his career in communications.

Today, Payne is a 30-year newspaper veteran, auto critic for *The Detroit News*, host of a radio show, and Pulitzer-Prize-nominated editorial cartoonist.

Obviously, he has a passion for communications.

In his spare time, Payne has authored three books, and the lifetime “motorhead” is an active race driver!

The ERC welcomes Payne to speak to our Forum on Tuesday, February 18, at the War Memorial.

Payne began cartooning when he was a student at Princeton University, drawing for two of its student publications, *The Daily Princetonian* and *The Nassau Weekly*. After graduating with a degree in history, Payne was hired by *Charleston Daily Mail* as their staff artist.

In 1986, he moved to Washington, D.C., working for Scripps Howard News Service as an editorial cartoonist and an editor for its cartoon wire. His cartoons were available through the Associated Press syndication services.

Detroit News hired Payne in 1999 as their cartoonist.

Payne now contributes auto reviews, videos, and product reporting to *The News*. He also hosts the weekly “Car Radio” program for 910-AM Detroit, and produces a weekly comic called “Car-toon.”

His cartoons are syndicated by United Media. In addition to auto reporting and editorial cartoons, Payne also writes columns for various conservative publications, including *National Review*.

Payne has been a critic of mainstream media’s unbalanced reporting, and outspoken about bias in climate change coverage.

Payne lives in Bloomfield Hills with his wife, Talbot, and their two children.

**Wayne Committee
Kicks Off the Election Season**

By Cheryl Costantino, Chair
Wayne County Republican Committee

Republicans from all corners of Wayne County are invited to our Wayne County Republican Committee Dinner and Trump 2020 Kick Off.

Though the county is served by parts of four congressional districts — 11, 12, 13 and 14 — all are invited to join us for a great time in Dearborn Heights as we celebrate unity and to kick off the 2020 election campaign.

We’ll gather at 6 p.m., Monday, Jan. 27, 2020, for dinner at Antonio’s Cucina Italiana, 26356 Ford Road, Dearborn Heights, MI 48127.

Cost is just \$25!

Please contact me with any questions or to RSVP.



**ERC Board Elections
Set for January Meeting**

Eastside Republican Club members will elect 2020 officers and board members at their regular meeting, Tuesday, Jan. 21, 2020, at the War Memorial. The meeting will be called to order at 7:30 p.m.

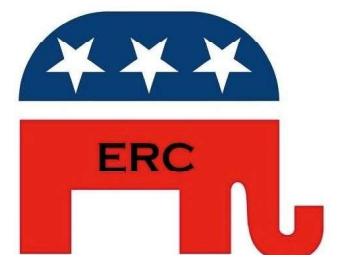
Only regular ERC members current in dues are allowed to vote. Members will make nominations from the floor.

As provided by the bylaws, “All seven members of the Eastside Republican Club executive board shall be elected at the Annual Meeting by plurality vote of the Regular Members present and voting. Voting by proxy shall not be allowed.”

Offices are chair, vice chair, secretary and treasurer. There is no term limitation on the four elected officers, and they may succeed themselves in office.

The board includes three at-large members. No board member may serve more than one term as an at-large executive board member during any two-year period.

Any member with a question about the responsibilities of a specific office or position is encouraged to contact chairman Dave Schumacher or other officer.



Wayne 14th District News

By Monica Palmer, Wayne 14th Chair

The roaring '20s are upon us and we'll celebrate!

Join us for the Wayne 14 State of the Union watch party! It's set for 7 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 4, at Whiskey Six. Dinner is available from the regular menu, and please stay to watch the SOTU speech. Whiskey Six is located at 646 St. Clair Ave, Grosse Pte.

Please RSVP to me at (269) 625-4302 or Monica.plamer@live.com.



Now is the time to complete your Delegate Affidavit if you want to serve as precinct delegate and be on the August Primary ballot. I encourage new and existing delegates to file now, though the official deadline is not until Tuesday, May 5. Don't procrastinate.

Meanwhile, the MIGOP State Convention, is Friday/Saturday, April 24-25, at Suburban Collection Showplace, 46100 Grand River Ave., Novi. I will mail the official Call to Convention to delegates in early-to-mid February.



Bill Extends Criminal Sanctions To Eavesdropping via Siri, Alexa, Smart TVs

By Sandy Malone

State Sen. Jim Runestad, R-White Lake, has introduced Senate Bill 688 to update Michigan laws that prohibit eavesdropping, surveilling or secretly recording another person, so that the law can accommodate advances in technology.

"Our eavesdropping laws are outdated and refer to older forms of communications, such as listening in on telephone conversations and bugging people's homes and places of business," Runestad said in a press release from his office on Dec. 26, 2019.

The current definitions go back to 1966, and the lawmakers who wrote them could not have conceived of a time when citizens would have a Siri in their pocket, an Alexa on their dresser, and a so-called smart television that could potentially record and film everything that happens in their living room.

"Consumers are slowly becoming aware of the danger of private conversations being recorded by their electronic purchases. The law needs to catch up to this changing technological environment," the senator said in the release.

For example, the current Michigan law defines surveillance as secretly observing the activities of another

Google's Voter Manipulation

Listen to the explosive "big tech censorship" testimony by author and researcher Dr. Robert Epstein (Harvard PhD) before the U.S. Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution, June 16, 2019.

A seven-minute excerpt of Dr. Epstein's shocking testimony is online here: https://youtu.be/kMU2Vo6_CEQ

His research confirms "biased search results can easily produce shifts in the opinions and voting preferences of undecided voters by up to 80% in some demographic groups."

He calls it "SEAM," short for search engine manipulation effect, which he said is effective because it is "subliminal."

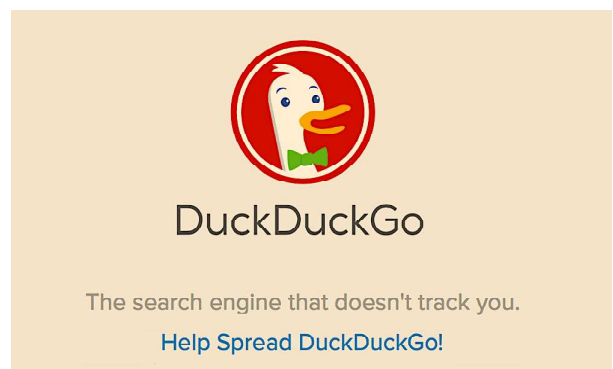
Applying the highest standards of scientific integrity, Epstein's research indicates, "In 2016, Google's search algorithm likely impacted undecided voters in a way that shifted at least 2.6 million votes to Hillary Clinton.

"Whom I supported," he added, referring to his vote and financial support for Clinton.

But he warns that a "free and fair election" in the 2020 is in jeopardy due to continued manipulation and "ephemeral experiences" controlled by big tech.

In addition to its search results manipulation and censorship capabilities, Google maintains a massive tracking and surveillance operation integral to its business model.

Epstein also mentioned the bias of both Facebook and Twitter. One safer search engine alternative, DuckDuckGo, does not track its users. Like Google, it is free to users.



person for the purpose of spying upon and invading the privacy of the person observed.

SB 688 would add the words "whether by physical or technological means, in a present or future time, whether or not the individual is aware of the presence of a device or the capabilities of that device to record, store a recording, or be remotely accessed."

The change would extend the law's criminal penalties to those who would use new technology for nefarious purposes.

Eavesdropping continues on next page

Dr. Qian Wang to Address ECR on April 21

A native of communist mainland China, Dr. Qian Wang will speak to the ERC at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, April 21, at The Grosse Pointe War Memorial.

With the benefit of her firsthand experience, Wang will contrast socialism, communism, totalitarianism and how they compare to new her life in the free world.



Dave Schumacher explained, “Especially with the changes now occurring in Hong Kong, we look forward to hearing her tell what life is like under the communist system.”

“We invite anyone who wants to see whats going on in America from a fresh perspective, especially high school and university students, to meet Dr. Wang

and to ask questions.”

The Forum is open to the public at no charge, and doors will open at 7 p.m. for coffee and networking.

Wang left China in 1985 when she won a national scholarship to study for her Ph.D. in engineering at the Polytechnic of Milan, Italy.

She earned her MBA from Indiana University and currently works as senior mechanical engineer for Ingersoll-Rand, Davidson, NC.

Wang enjoys writing commentaries on movies for a Chinese cinema blog, and has authored two books about her life in China during the “Cultural Revolution.”

A beekeeper and dog lover, Wang is an active member of the local community, having served on the PTA, the Cornelius, N.C., planning board, the Lake Norman regional Red Cross board, and as volunteer principal for a local Chinese school.

Eavesdropping continued from page 4

“We should not be afraid that our smart TVs and other technologies are actively recording our day-to-day lives,” Runestad said. “Updating the law will protect against these type of privacy invasions — especially in the comfort of our own homes.”

SB 688 was introduced about a month after the Portland, Oregon, FBI field office issued a warning to consumers about hackers using smart TVs as a gateway to enter their homes.

The FBI warned that even if a personal computer is properly secured, hackers might be able to create a back door through a household’s router via a smart TV.

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Welcome to San Francisco [watch where you step].

In Some Places, Everyone is Welcome at the Polls Even ‘Undocumented’ Nonresidents

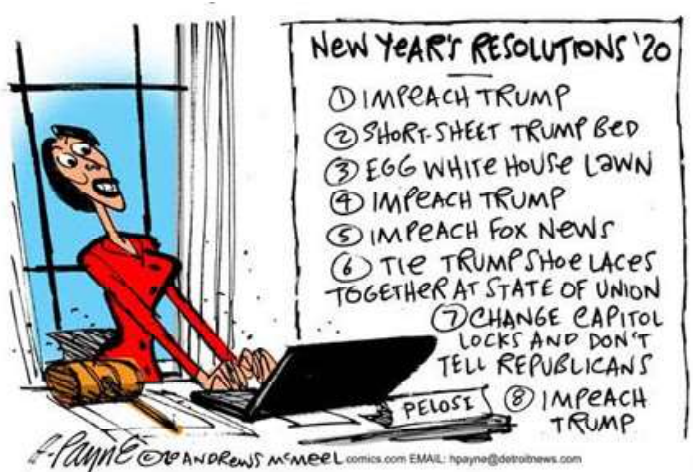
Throughout the nation, citizens can register and vote in only one jurisdiction for federal elections.

Local elections can be a different matter. Eleven states have statutes that permit nonresidents, such as second-home owners or business owners, to vote in local, municipal, and/or special district elections such as irrigation, water, sewer and conservancy districts.

In two states, statutes even permit local jurisdictions to decide if noncitizens will be permitted to vote in local elections: Illinois and Maryland.

Now, San Francisco has an even more “progressive” idea: according to the San Francisco Chronicle, the City by the Bay began last summer to register non-citizens, including undocumented immigrants, to cast ballots its school board elections.

It has a pleasant ring to it: “undocumented.” The term almost sounds as if the dog simply ate the illegal alien’s paper work.



GOP Congressional District Plans

By Mayra Rodriguez, Chair

Michigan 14th District Republican Committee

Meet Parker Maddock, field director for the Trump Victory Team. He's the speaker at our next 14th District executive committee meeting at 7 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 14, Kerby's Koney Island, 25050 Northwestern Southfield (10 mile/Evergreen).



Come for dinner by 6:30 p.m. My promise: the meeting will conclude by 8:30 p.m. See you then!

Make note of this: John James for Senate Headquarters opens on Jan. 16. It will be located at 17336 Laurel Park Drive N, suite P-30, in Livonia. A launch rally is planed for February.

Finally, we are so excited to have three potential (unofficial) candidates interested in running for the seat now held by Brenda Lawrence.

They are Vance Patrick, Southfield, Daryle Houston, Southfield, and Gabi Grossbard of Oak Park.

Now in November, let's send a new representative to Washington from the 14th district!

January is ERC Dues Time Again!

Now you can even support the ERC and save!

There are now three ways you can support the ERC with your dues.

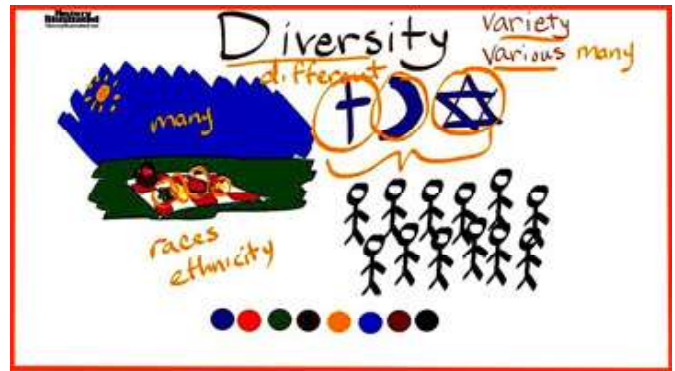
First, just pay the annual \$25 per household.

Second—and this is new—pay \$100 for a five-year membership. That's equivalent to one year of free membership!

Or third, chip in \$500 and become an elite, Lifetime Member.

Of course, any additional donations are always accepted and appreciated.

Note: Use your bank's online bill paying service to save both check writing and the cost of a stamp. Most banks and credit unions offer the service for no charge. If not, it's usually about the cost of that postage stamp and you avoid a trip to the mailbox.



Court Challenges for New Redistricting Commission Rules

In 2018, Michigan voters passed Prop 2 hoping to remove partisanship from the redistricting process. Good luck.

The proposal enacted a constitutional amendment calling for a 13-member commission made up of those who reflect Michigan's demographic and geographic diversity. Enter the first problem: "diversity" was not defined by the amendment.

Of course racial, ethnic and language discrimination in drawing district boundaries is already governed by federal civil rights laws, including the Voting Rights Act of 1965, and amendments and case law since passage.

So, exactly, how will Michigan interpret "diversity," and how much discrimination is permitted?

Michigan's new amendment explicitly discriminates against anyone who is or has been involved in the political process within the past six years, including a parent, child or spouse of these people. One estimate is that a half-million Michigan citizens would be barred from serving.

Challenging this provision, a group has filed a federal suit calling it unnecessary discrimination against voters who have exercised their constitutional rights.

"Michigan's new redistricting commission falls short... by punishing the people of Michigan for exercising those rights — or for being related to someone who has," said former Wisconsin governor Scott Walker, who serves as finance chair for the group challenging the redistricting commission provision.

Secretary of State Nessel says this exclusion serves to remove any potential "conflict of interest."

In the latest round, a second federal suit challenges commission member selection.

Redistricting continued next page

Redistricting continued from page 6

MI GOP chair Laura Cox has called implementation “an assault on the associational right of political parties.” She points out that nothing prohibits Michigan’s sitting Secretary of State to appoint “fake” Republicans (or Democrats) to fill the four commissioner seats set aside for the Party.

But there’s more.

Existing standards for redistricting are thrown out by the 2018 amendment, which now aims to eliminate partisan gerrymandering.

Yet those dumped standards were adopted to redress offenses of 1964 and 1972 redistricting plans guilty of crossing hundreds of village, city, township and county lines in pursuit of “one person, one vote” purity.

Those earlier, maligned redistricting plans, according to political analyst Bill Ballenger, triggered “consternation and anger throughout Michigan.”

And don’t forget: Eric Holder is at work as head of the National Democratic Redistricting Committee.

Removing partisanship will remain elusive.

Annual ERC Summer Picnic June 14th

“Connect with like-minded conservatives and enjoy a hot dog,” said ERC 2020 picnic host, Mike Hennigan, announcing the 18th annual ERC Family Fun Picnic Sunday, June 14th, at Patterson Park on Lake St. Clair in Grosse Pointe Park.

Patterson Park, 16006 Essex, also known as “Three Mile Park,” is a fun place to picnic, enjoy your friends and savor a fresh lake breeze.

Kids and adults appreciate the amenities: splash pad, playscape, putting greens, even a shoreline boardwalk for a stroll if you like (landscaped, and handicapped accessible). There’s also tennis, bocce ball, and the fountain/reflecting pool.

To satisfy the picnic appetite, Hennigan promises hot dogs, chips and lemonade, but asks everyone to bring one item to share: either a vegetable dish, pasta or bean salad, fruit dish, dessert, or soft drinks.

“Plan to relax, take it easy—you’re with friends!” said Hennigan.

There is no charge, but just let Peggy Hennigan know your plans: text, or leave a message for her at 505-3646, that’s area 313.

All Republicans are invited, and encouraged to bring their families and friends.

Meet Ingrid Jacques Detroit News Editor May 19



Ingrid Jacques, deputy editorial page editor at *The Detroit News*, will speak to the Eastside Republican Club 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, May 19, at The War Memorial.

In advance of the meeting, Eastside Republican chairman Dave Schumacher noted, “We appreciate that *The News* consistently

expresses a fiscally conservative point of view.”

“The Forum is open to the public at no charge, so we invite anyone interested in current events to hear Ms Jacques and to ask questions,” Schumacher added.

Forum doors open at 7 p.m. for coffee and networking in advance of the meeting.

Jacques has worked for the Detroit daily since 2010, and writes frequently about education. In addition she covers other issues impacting Detroit, the state of Michigan and beyond.

Following graduation from Hillsdale College, Jacques traveled to D.C. for an internship at *Human Events*, a leading conservative publication. She then returned to Michigan where she began work at Adrian’s *Daily Telegram*.

A native of Salem, Oregon, Ingrid has a degree in English from Hillsdale College and a master’s in journalism from Michigan State University.

In 2014, Jacques was named one of Oakland County’s Elite 40 under 40. She currently lives in Royal Oak.



Max Wiener of the Park and his two children enjoy the 2019 ERC picnic.

~ CALENDAR OF EVENTS ~

Tuesday, Jan. 21

ERC Forum with Jarrett Skorup of Mackinac Center, election of ERC officers, 7:30 p.m., War Memorial

Monday, Jan. 27

Wayne County Rep. Committee Unity Dinner, 6 p.m., Antonio's Cucina Italiana, 26356 Ford Road, Dearborn Heights

Tuesday, Feb. 4

Wayne 14 SOTU Watch Party, 7 p.m., Whiskey Six, 646 St. Clair Ave, Grosse Pointe

Tuesday, Feb. 18

ERC Forum with Henry Payne, Detroit News auto critic, and syndicated cartoonist, 7:30 p.m., War Memorial

Tuesday, March 10

Presidential Primary Election

Tuesday, March 17

ERC Forum speaker TBA, 7:30 p.m., War Memorial

Thursday, March 26

Wayne County Republican Convention

Tuesday, April 21

ERC Forum with Dr. Qian Wang, 7:30 p.m., War Memorial

Friday/Saturday, April 24-25

MIGOP State Convention, Suburban Collection Showplace, 46100 Grand River Ave., Novi

Tuesday, May 5

Precinct delegate filing deadline

Tuesday, May 19

ERC Forum with Ingrid Jacques, Detroit News deputy editorial editor, 7:30 p.m., War Memorial

Sunday, June 14

Annual ERC Picnic, 1-4 p.m., Patterson Park, Grosse Pointe Park

Tuesday, Aug. 4

State Primary Election

Thursday, Aug. 13

Wayne County Republican Convention

Saturday, Aug. 29

MIGOP State Convention, TCF Center (Cobo), Detroit

Tuesday, Nov. 3

General Election Day

Opinions expressed in the Eastside Republican Review are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the official position of the Eastside Republican Club.

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Post Office Box 361025
Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan 48236

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