



Union Township officials discuss election ballot errors

By [Randi Shaffer](#), *The Morning Sun*

POSTED: 11/12/14, 10:56 PM EST
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 UPDATED: ON 11/12/2014
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Union Township officials are taking steps to ensure future elections do not result in any mishaps like those of last week.

At Wednesday night's meeting, township clerk Margie Henry detailed [some of the errors](#) to the board before mentioning that steps will be taken next election to ensure similar mistakes are not made.

"I'm a very positive person, and I'm taking steps to proceed to make sure we don't get any more hangups," Henry said.

Henry said that many mistakes made during the midterm election were due to human error, so during next year's election, each precinct will have four new workers arrive at 7 p.m. to finish up polling duties for the day.

"After you work 18 hours straight, our inspectors are tired," she said. "We all made mistakes."

Henry said that she has also been working with County Clerk Minde Lux to implement election training every year for all poll workers.

Hopefully next year, she said, the county will have new tabulators to replace several of the counting machines that erred last week.

Trustee Phil Mikus said he was glad Henry was looking into correcting the mistakes.

"You certainly can't change the past, but you're going to take steps to make the future better," he said.

Additionally, Henry paid for the overnight security guard hired to watch the ballots out of her own pocket.

Henry pointed out that legal representatives of both the Democratic and Republican parties were satisfied with the end result following the post-election Board of Canvassers meeting.

Some residents pointed out other Union Township election concerns that were not addressed by the Board of Canvassers.

Township resident Mary Barker said that while a precinct's polling location was moved to the Commission on Aging building, the change was not really well-known amongst voters.

"The problem was that it wasn't really publicized," she said.

Henry acknowledged that while signs leading to the COA building were vague, just offering the word "vote" with a question mark, the change in polling location was advertised in the local newspaper.

Trustee Roger Hauck said that while the township is responsible for making the voting process "as reasonable and easy as possible," burden does still remain in the hands of the residents.

Confused voters could have called the county building or township hall to get information about the polling location change, he said.

"The biggest thing is personal responsibility," he said.

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Randi Shaffer has been the Isabella County reporter for the Morning Sun since 2012. An alumna of CMU, she is in the process of obtaining her MSA degree. Obsessions include hockey, yoga and vegetables. Reach the author at rshaffer@michigannewspapers.com.

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