

MEA-RETIRED TRIBUNE

January 2019

MEA-RETIRED ON-LINE VOTING INSTRUCTIONS

FEBRUARY 4-15, 2019

Beginning February 4, 2019, MEA-Retired members will begin casting their ballots for MEA-Retired delegates to the MEA Representative Assembly, the NEA Representative Assembly, and the NEA-Retired Annual Meeting, as well as Region Directors (Odd numbered regions).

**ON-LINE VOTING WILL BEGIN ON FEBRUARY 4, 2019 AT 8 AM EST AND WILL
CONTINUE UNTIL 4 PM EST ON FEBRUARY 15, 2019**

Here's how – You can use your own computer, your neighbor, your grandchildren's, or one at your local library.

1. Go to the MEA website at <https://www.mymea.org/onlinevoting/>
2. Follow the Login instructions:
First Name (often your legal first name)
Last Name
Last four digits of your social security number
3. Click the "Login" button.
4. If your record is found and the polls are open, your ballot will be displayed.
5. Select the people that you would like to vote for. Clicking the "Additional Info" link next to a ballot item will allow you to read biographical information on the candidate if it has been submitted.
6. Once you have made your selections, click the "Confirm Ballot" button.
7. A preview of your ballot selections will be shown. To modify any of your selections, click the "Modify Ballot" button.
8. To cast your ballot, click the "Cast Ballot" button. Once your ballot is cast, you will see a confirmation page.
9. Click the "Sign Out" link to log out of the system.

If you are interested in receiving a paper ballot you will need to fill out the form below and return it to Dan Rudd c/o MEA-Retired, 1216 Kendale Blvd, PO Box 2573, East Lansing, MI 48826-2573. **The request MUST be postmarked no later than January 8, 2019. Please use the address you will be at after December 31, 2018.**

NAME _____

STREET _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

30,000 people a day Chicago O'Hare

As this column goes to press, I — and tens of thousands of others — will be traveling through Chicago's O'Hare International Airport, where a light rail "people mover" moves some 30,000 people a day between terminals and parking lots. **But the people mover, officially called the Automated Transportation Service, will completely shut down starting next week and not slated to be reopened in the fall of 2019.**

"Our Department's leadership' civilian and military' remains in the best possible hands. I am confident that each of you remains undistracted from our sworn mission to support and defend the Constitution while protecting our way of life."

--- Former Defense Secretary Jim Mattis

New MEA Member Discount through Staples

The average educator spends more than \$500 per year out of pocket for supplies for their students and classroom or worksite. Taking advantage of MEA's bargaining power and collective strength, our new members-only partnership with Staples could save you an average of 30% on supply purchases. At that \$500 average, that could mean an extra \$150 back in your pocket – or millions of dollars saved when you multiply that across all of MEA's members.

This new benefit of membership can save you money on purchases you need at work or at home – you can even save money on last minute holiday gifts! Learn more by logging in to MEA's Members Only area or watching for the upcoming *MEA Voice* magazine.

Ready to start saving today? You can sign up for the Staples Business Advantage program here.

(NOTE: Once you sign up for the program, if you want to get the discount in-person at your local Staples, you need to register the credit card you'll want to use there.)

Lame Duck Bills Snyder Signed and Vetoed

STATE BUDGET: Snyder signed a \$1.3 billion supplemental budget plan that diverts new online sales tax revenue from schools to environmental cleanup, roads and other priorities.

ONLINE GAMBLING: Snyder vetoed bills that would have authorized online gambling, including wagers on sports.

ABORTION: Snyder vetoed legislation that would have permanently banned doctors from prescribing abortion-inducing drugs with webcams or other forms of telemedicine. He helped to enact the temporary prohibition in 2012, but the veto means it will expire next week.

GRADING SCHOOLS: Snyder signed a law to require A-through-F letter grades for public schools, starting in September 2019.

FIREWORKS: Snyder signed laws letting municipalities restrict the use of fireworks on more days.

ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANUP: Snyder signed a law requiring the state Department of Environmental Quality to use federal toxicity values when setting cleanup criteria for hazardous substances.

WETLANDS: Snyder signed a scaled-down wetlands measure that continues to require permits for degrading many bogs, marshes and similar waterways but makes key concessions to developers.

TAXES: Snyder vetoed bills that would have cut taxes owed by various businesses.

DOG SALES: Snyder vetoed bills that would have regulated dog sales and restricted local bans on pet shops.

BREEDING: Snyder signed laws to allow for the breeding of large carnivores such as lions, tigers and bears.

RAPE EXAMS: Snyder signed laws requiring the Crime Victims Services Commission to spend more to reimburse health care providers for sexual assault medical forensic exams.

EVALUATION OF INCENTIVES: Snyder signed a law to make the state contract for periodic evaluation of its economic development incentives. The evaluations will occur every four or six years, depending on the value of the incentive.

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DEC. 27

CYBERBULLYING: Snyder signed a law making cyberbullying a crime.

BUSINESS INCENTIVES: Snyder signed a law letting companies with out-of-state employees qualify for state economic development incentives as long as they account for no more than 25 percent of their workforce.

DENTAL THERAPISTS: Snyder signed a law creating a license for midlevel providers known as dental therapists to work in the state.

OCCUPATIONAL LICENSES: Snyder signed laws that restrict municipalities from imposing licensing requirements on certain occupations unless they already are doing so.

VETOES: Snyder vetoed bills that would have let parents surrender a newborn inside a safety device at a hospital, police department or fire station. Other bills he nixed would have changed billboard permitting, required the state to offer public school employees the option to buy annuities and let residential taxpayers be levied special assessments to pay for improvements in principal shopping districts and business improvement zones.

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DEC. 21

— **SCHOOL SAFETY:** Snyder signed laws to create a state Office of School Safety and require that schools develop emergency operations plans and conduct safety assessments with local law enforcement. School districts and charter schools will have to consult with police before building a new school or doing a major renovation. The bills were developed in the wake of mass shootings in Florida and Texas.

— **DRONES:** Snyder signed laws to generally prohibit state agencies from using drones to surveil facilities that are subject to licensing or other government requirements. Exceptions include if the owners give express consent, if the departments have valid search warrants, if the state suspects there may be an imminent threat or the agencies are inspecting transportation infrastructure. Law enforcement investigations also are exempt. Snyder also signed laws making it a felony to operate drones in a way that interferes with key facilities such as refineries, power plants and cell towers.

— **ANIMAL CRUELTY:** Snyder signed a law toughening prison sentences for “aggravated” animal cruelty offenses and making breeders and pet shops subject to criminal penalties.

— **OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING:** Snyder signed laws to require the state licensing department to, upon request, tell people in advance if past criminal convictions disqualify them from being licensed to do work in the trades or other occupations. The move is designed to save would-be applicants from paying for education or training only to be denied a license down the line.

— VETOES: Snyder vetoed bills that would have created a state income tax deduction for first-time homebuyers, given the legislative auditor general unrestricted access to confidential information in other branches of state government and delayed implementation of roomier enclosures for egg-laying hens

DEC. 20

— DEER STERILIZATION: Snyder signed a law to prohibit the state from issuing a permit to sterilize deer or other game animals until April 2022. An ongoing research program in Ann Arbor will continue. The Natural Resources Commission can issue more kill tags in urban areas with high concentrations of deer, and municipalities can shorten the 150-yard rule for shooting deer.

— YOUTH HUNTING: Snyder signed a law to let 10-, 11-, 12- and 13-year-olds hunt deer, bear or elk on public lands — not just private property — as long as they are accompanied by a parent or other authorized adult.

— TASTING ROOMS: Snyder signed laws to let brewer and microbrewers establish on-site tasting rooms where guests can sample their beer. The rooms currently are only allowed for wineries and distilleries.

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DEC. 17

— NASSAR BILLS: Snyder signed laws inspired by the Larry Nassar sexual abuse case, easing the prosecution of alleged abusers, stiffening child pornography penalties and letting more people speak at sentencings under certain circumstances.

— AUTONOMOUS VEHICLES: Snyder signed a law to exempt truck “platoon” operations from a requirement to leave sufficient space so other vehicles can pass.

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DEC. 14

— MINIMUM WAGE: Snyder signed a law to slow down a boost in Michigan’s \$9.25 an hour minimum wage, so it will gradually rise to \$12.05 by 2030 instead of \$12 by 2022 as required by a proposed ballot initiative that GOP lawmakers pre-emptively adopted in September to make it easier to amend after the election. The new law reverses a provision that would have brought a lower wage for tipped employees in line with the wage for other workers. It also repeals a provision — in a 2014 law — that ties future increases to inflation

— PAID SICK LEAVE: Snyder also signed a law to scale back a separate proposed ballot initiative to require paid sick leave for workers, after Republicans legislators passed it under the same adopt-and-amend strategy. The new law exempts employers with fewer than 50 employees from having to provide earned sick days, a change that is estimated to leave up to 1 million employees without the benefit. It also limits the amount of annual mandatory leave at larger employers to 40 hours, instead of 72 hours as proposed by the initiative.

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DEC. 12

— OIL PIPELINE: Snyder signed a law establishing a panel to oversee construction of an oil pipeline tunnel in the waterway linking Lakes Huron and Michigan. Opponents insisted the battle is not over and could widen from the state Capitol to the courts. Line 5 has carried crude oil and natural gas liquids used in propane 645 miles (1,038 kilometers) from Superior, Wisconsin, through northern Michigan to the Canadian city of Sarnia, Ontario, since 1953. Snyder and Enbridge Inc. agreed to replace the twin-pipe segment with a new pipe housed in a tunnel drilled through bedrock beneath the Straits of Mackinac.

— WIRELESS TECHNOLOGY: Snyder signed laws to ease the wireless industry’s shift to next-generation technology with statewide regulations for the installation of a dense network of fifth-generation, or 5G, “small cells” on telephone poles, traffic signals and other infrastructure.

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NOV. 15

— ONLINE REGISTRATION: Snyder signed laws to establish online voter registration.

— MOVE OVER LAW: Snyder signed a law to require drives to slow by 10 mph below the posted speed limit when passing an emergency, maintenance or utility vehicle that is on the side of the road.

Lansing State Journal

MEA-RETIRED DUES INCREASE SEPTEMBER 2019

Many retirees have paid a portion of their MEA-Retired dues while employed by a public school. September 2019 dues will be increased by \$50 making dues \$500. MEA-Retired members enjoy benefits from MESSA and MEA Financial Services, as well as benefits from NEA. If you know retirees that are not members, please share this information with them. To learn how much money retirees may have already paid into MEA-Retired dues, call Lisa Andros at 517-333-6264.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

I wish you have...

12 months of happiness

52 weeks of fun

365 days of success

8,760 hours of good health

52,600 minutes of good luck

And 3,153,600 seconds of joy!