



**AGENDA**  
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
TOWNSHIP BOARD – SPECIAL MEETING  
August 26, 2021 5:30 pm

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1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INTRODUCTIONS
3. ROLL CALL
4. CITIZENS ADDRESS AGENDA ITEMS AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS
5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
6. BOARD ACTION ITEMS
  - A. Proposed Date For The Recreational Marihuana Election
7. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC
8. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS
9. ADJOURNMENT

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All comments limited to 3 minutes, unless prior approval for additional time for good cause is obtained from the Supervisor.  
Appointment of Supervisor Pro Tem and/ or Temporary Clerk if necessary.

Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Meridian Township Board by contacting:  
Township Manager Frank L. Walsh, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864 or 517.853.4258 - Ten Day Notice is Required.  
Meeting Location: 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864 Township Hall



BRANCH OFFICE  
Veterans Memorial Courthouse  
Lansing, MI 48933  
inghamclerk@ingham.org  
www.ingham.org

**Barb Byrum**  
**Ingham County Clerk**

MAIN OFFICE  
P.O. Box 179  
341 South Jefferson  
Mason, MI 48854  
Phone: (517) 676-7201  
Fax: (517) 676-7254

August 20, 2021

Meridian Township Clerk Deborah Guthrie  
5151 Marsh Rd  
Okemos, MI 48864

Dear Clerk Guthrie:

I am writing to express my concern regarding the recent certification of ballot language to prompt a Special Election in Meridian Township on November 2, 2021.

Petitions for the Initiation of Ordinance to Prohibit Adult-Use Marijuana Establishments ballot proposal were filed with the Meridian Township Clerk's Office in late July. Upon consultation with my Office, I advised you to seek guidance from your Township Attorney regarding the filing. It appears your Township Attorney advised that the proposal could appear on the ballot for the upcoming November Election.

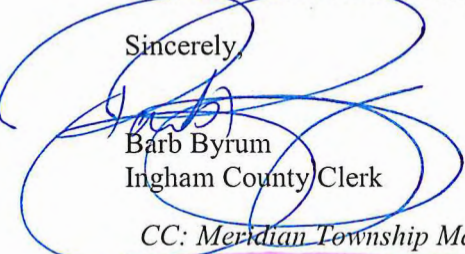
I am particularly concerned that the Township Attorney did not take into account the recent 13<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court ruling in which Judge Kevin Elsenheimer ruled that a "regular election" meant one in which candidates were on the ballot. Per the Michigan Regulation and Taxation of Marijuana Act of 2018, proposals of this nature should be submitted to the voters "at the next regular election." I contend that the placement of the proposal on the November 2, 2021 Election ballot is not correct, as Meridian Township did not already have a regularly scheduled election or candidates on the ballot.

The ballot proposal that was certified by you and approved by the Meridian Township Board will appear on the November 2, 2021 Special Election ballot, as you have certified it to my Office, however, I have reason to believe that the acceptance and certification of this proposal was improper. Regardless, I will go forward with the necessary preparations for the election. Please note, that at my request, the Ingham County Attorney also communicated this concern to your Township Attorney, early last week.

As you have been advised, as this will be a Meridian Township-only Special Election, the Township will be responsible for all costs associated with the conducting of this election. I would like to communicate that in the event that this ballot proposal is challenged in court, Meridian Township will be also responsible for any and all County legal costs, in addition to costs associated with the conduct of this election, even if a court halts the election as occurred in Grand Traverse County.

Please feel free to contact me if I may be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

  
Barb Byrum  
Ingham County Clerk

CC: Meridian Township Manager Frank Walsh  
Meridian Township Board  
Michigan Bureau of Elections