

## **DEERFIELD TOWNSHIP OPENS SECOND VOTER PRECINCT**

Beginning with the August 2008 Primary Election, Deerfield Township Residents will be voting in two precincts. Residents South of Highway M-20 will be in Precinct One and residents North of M-20 will be in Precinct Two. Michigan Election Law requires local jurisdictions to split when they reach 3,000 registered voters.

Deerfield Township could have gotten through this election cycle without splitting, however waiting lines were starting to develop at the last general election. Adding the second precinct allows voters to be processed through at roughly twice the rate as using only one precinct.

Not much will really change for voters except they will spend less time waiting to vote. All voters will still vote at the same location except each precinct will have a line for processing voters.

One consideration in creating a second precinct was the cost. The cost of a second tabulator is \$6,500.00 plus about \$200.00 shipping and other supplies such as ballot containers and transfer cases puts the total cost over \$8,000.00. Township Clerk Walter Nelson inquired if we wait until we are mandated to split, will the State of Michigan reimburse the township for any of the costs? The answer was no. This answer pretty much decided the issue.

Because there would be no reimbursement for the costs and because the costs would most likely go up, the township board adopted a resolution to establish a second precinct. Turnout for the August Primary will be light compared to the November General Election, this will provide an opportunity to solve any problems created by adding a second precinct.