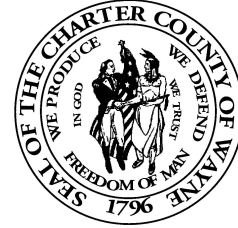


# NEWS RELEASE



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## OFFICE OF THE WAYNE COUNTY CLERK CATHY M. GARRETT

March 3, 2011

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### Wayne County Clerk, Cathy M. Garrett

### Online Campaign Finance System – A System for the 22<sup>nd</sup> Century

Wayne County, Michigan – In late 2011, Cathy M. Garrett, Wayne County Clerk, will be launching a new state-of-the art campaign finance system. As the chief elections official of the largest county in the State of Michigan, the County Clerk is directly responsible for oversight and enforcement of the Michigan Campaign Finance Act as it relates to nearly 3,000 filers who participate in contests for elected offices countywide and at the city level of government in Wayne County. Officeholders will soon be required to file campaign finance statements online.

The new online system spearheaded by Cathy M. Garrett, Wayne County Clerk, also allows the public to use the clerk's website to search for detailed information on campaign contributions by individuals and political action committees, or PACs. Members of the public, the media, "political junkies", and interested parties will be able to retrieve real time campaign finance information from office or home at the click of a button. A person will be able to view or print reports anonymously online. Campaign finance reports will be accessible for review in County Clerk Cathy M. Garrett's office.

"It's the dawn of a new day in Wayne County as it relates to transparency in campaign finance reporting. This state of the art online System brings campaign finance reporting in Wayne County into the 22<sup>nd</sup> Century. I am a steward of campaign finance information. The rightful owner of this information is the public not the candidates. This System will track where the money comes from and where the money goes in full public view. This is healthy for democracy and transparency in campaign finance," "It has been a "slug fest" getting the project financed through the State of Michigan - Bond Authority and approved the Commission," said Clerk Garrett.

"Since taking office in 2001, this state-of-art system has been a goal of Clerk Garrett. In an environment wherein taxpayer dollars are scarce... technology is the only savior," said Caven West, Chief Deputy County Clerk.

The Clerk Garrett purchased the campaign finance through the County's competitive bid process from PCC Technology Group, LLC.

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Editors note: Wayne County Clerk, Cathy M. Garrett will be available for on-site interviews.