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Get Ready for Michigan's Proposal 1 on May 5th's Ballot



ROWE encourages Michigan voters to let their voices be heard by casting a vote in the statewide election May 5. The ballot will include Proposal 1. Approval of the proposal would:

- Repeal the 6 percent sales tax on gas and replace it with a new motor fuels tax at the wholesale level that is dedicated to funding transportation
- Require road builders to provide guarantees in the form of warranties so if the roads are not built correctly, the road builders – not the taxpayers – will pay for the repairs
- Increase the state sales tax by 1 percent (from 6 to 7 percent), with funding going to schools and local governments
- Phase out discounts on vehicle registrations that currently occur as vehicles age; money generated will go to the state's road maintenance budget
- Increase registration fees for commercial trucks that weigh more than 26,000 pounds (the increase would be on a sliding scale based on the vehicle's weight); money generated will go to the state's road maintenance budget
- Increase the earned income tax credit, which was cut by 70 percent in 2011

Estimated Results:

- \$1.2 billion for roads and bridges
- \$112 million for transit and rail
- \$300 million for schools
- \$100 million for local governments
- \$260 million in tax relief for lower-income residents

The reasons Proposal 1 is on the ballot include:

- Michigan spends less per capita on roads than any other state.
- One out of every four bridges in the state is structurally deficient or functionally obsolete; approximately 38 percent of roads are rated poor.
- It will increase funding for schools by approximately \$300 million. The Michigan Education Association supports passage of Proposal 1.
- Local governments have experienced a loss of revenue as businesses have closed and people have left the state due to the poor economy. If passed, they will receive approximately \$100 million in additional revenue, which can help pay for important services such as police and fire protection.

ROWE believes increased funding for schools, roads, and local governments is desperately needed in Michigan. We hope you will consider this proposal as a viable option for generating the money needed to improve the quality of life for Michigan residents. [Click here for the exact ballot language.](#)



What's Inside:

ROWE Increases Public Input Options for Development Projects	2
Director of Surveying Paul N. Brown, PS, Retires	2
City of Bay City and City of Lapeer Projects Earn Awards	3
Former Employee Honored as MSPS Member of the Year	3
CEO Named Chair of Natural Resources Commission	3
Staff Updates	4



ROWE Increases Public Input Options for Development Projects

ROWE offers a cutting-edge option to capture invaluable public input for development projects that, in many instances, saves a community or organization time and money.

Mt. Morris Charter Township, MI is currently using ROWE's services of facilitating MindMixer/mySidewalk to collect input for establishing a Business Development Authority (BDA). MindMixer/mySidewalk is an online platform people can use for free via the township's website. They sign in with their email address, or Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, or Google Plus account and can post ideas or concerns about a topic or comment on another person's post. The BDA is collecting comments about a 4-mile stretch of mostly commercial businesses, regarding concerns such as safety, blight, transportation, and types of businesses people would like to see.

ROWE is monitoring the site for a three-month period. MindMixer/mySidewalk will generate a report of comments, including the most discussed ones, and the demographics of users.

Another ROWE client is considering using MindMixer/mySidewalk to collect input for the city's master plan update. The benefits of using MindMixer/mySidewalk are it:

- May allow the client to collect more input than a public open house; users can comment from their own home any time of day or night
- Is typically less expensive than mailing a survey; may cut

down on other costs, such as one public input meeting instead of two

- May attract input from a younger demographic that typically does not attend public input meetings
- Can be shared on Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, or Google Plus, thus collect comments from people who do not live in the community but may visit the community if it was safer, included certain types of businesses, etc.
- Allows concept drawings to be posted on it for comment, such as a streetscape idea
- Can be used by any organization undertaking a development project, such as government entities, colleges, and non-profits



Director of Surveying Paul N. Brown, PS, Retires

ROWE announces the retirement of Director of Surveying Paul N. Brown, PS, after 38 years of much-appreciated dedication and service.

Paul earned a B.S. in surveying from Ferris State University in 1977 and joined ROWE that year. In 1996, he was named a vice president / principal.

During his time at ROWE, Paul helped the Survey Department grow in size and into new markets, such as the energy sector and the Michigan Department of Transportation.

Paul is very active in the Michigan Society of Professional Surveyors (MSPS), serving as 2009-10 president and state board member. He is also a member of the MSPS Institute, the MSPS Saginaw Valley Chapter, the North Carolina Society of Surveyors, and the National Society of Professional Surveyors.

Although everyone at ROWE will miss seeing him daily, he has agreed to help out with projects so his expertise and experience can continue to assist our clients on an as-needed basis. He has worked hard his entire career and earned the opportunity to enjoy more time with his family and his golf clubs. We extend to him our gratitude and best wishes.



Above, Brown poses with a few of his favorite current and past ROWE surveyors in February. Top, right, Paul in his early surveying days; bottom, right, Paul in more recent times.

City of Bay City and City of Lapeer Projects Earn Awards

The City of Bay City’s Uptown Bay City project (below) was recently honored with an *American Council of Engineering Companies of Michigan* Engineering Merit Award. The 43-acre industrial and aggregate site is being transformed into a vibrant multi-use area, containing business offices, restaurants, a hotel, housing, retail shops, a marina, and a half-mile riverwalk.



The City of Lapeer’s Court and Clay Streets reconstruction project (below) was recently honored with an *American Public Works Association of Michigan* Quality of Life Award. The project included reconstructing portions of Clay and Court streets, and construction of a pedestrian plaza and rain garden.



Former Employee Honored as MSPS Member of the Year

ROWE’s former Deputy Director of Surveying Gilbert G. Bonno, PS, was recently honored by the Michigan Society of Professional Surveyors as Member of the Year.

Gil was chosen for the honor due to his great service on both the MSPS and MSPS Foundation board of directors. His dedication on the seminar committee, where he helped organize three seminars last year, and on the communications committee, where he helps to gather articles for Michigan Surveyor magazine, were also factors.

Gil was a ROWE employee from 1997-2010.



G. Bonno

CEO Named Chair of Natural Resources Commission

Chief Executive Officer John D. Matonich, PS, was appointed chair of the Michigan Natural Resources Commission (MNRC) by Gov. Rick Snyder.

The MNRC works with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to conserve, protect, and manage the state’s natural and cultural resources for the use and enjoyment of current and future generations.

Matonich has served on the seven-member commission since 2010; his term expires Dec. 31, 2017.



J. Matonich

Staff Updates

New Director of Surveying Named

Jonathan H. Rick, PS, CFedS, has been named director of surveying upon the retirement of previous director Paul N. Brown, PS. Jon joined ROWE in 2005 after earning a B.S. in surveying from Michigan Technological University in 2004 and became a ROWE associate (company shareholder) in 2014. He is leading the surveying staff in all seven ROWE offices.



J. Rick

Engineer Earns Professional License

Brian M. Sarkella, PE, earned his professional engineer license. He is an assistant project engineer in the Civil Utilities Division in the Farmington Hills, MI office. Brian earned a B.S. in civil engineering from Lawrence Technological University. He assists with MDOT projects and performs design work for municipalities.



B. Sarkella

Promotion Announced

Rachel A. Yankee has been promoted from administrative secretary to executive administrative assistant in the Flint, MI corporate office. Rachel joined ROWE in 2013 and has an A.A. in business administration from Baker College. She is now the primary assistant to the firm's CEO and principals, responsible for all corporate- and principal-related administrative activities.



R. Yankee

The ROWE Team Expands

- **Krista T. Church** joined ROWE as an administrative secretary in the Flint, MI corporate office. She has an A.S. from Baker College.
- **Paul M. Horning, PS**, joined ROWE as an assistant project surveyor in the Flint, MI corporate office. He has a B.S. in surveying from Michigan Technological University and 19 years' surveying experience.
- **Travis L. Kizer** joined ROWE as a survey crew chief in the Mt. Pleasant, MI office. He has an A.S. in surveying technology from Ferris State University and 12 years' surveying experience.
- **Daniel G. Koehler, PE**, joined ROWE as a senior project manager in the Special Services Division in the Myrtle Beach, SC office. He has a B.S. in civil engineering from Clarkson University and 17 years' engineering experience.
- **Scott E. Kree** joined ROWE as a planner in the Flint, MI corporate office. He has a B.S. in urban and regional planning from Eastern Michigan University and 14 years' experience in planning and design.
- **Eric M. Latz** joined ROWE as an assistant project engineer in the Transportation Division in the Flint, MI corporate office. He has a B.S. in civil engineering from Michigan Technological University.
- **Douglas A. Robbins** joined ROWE as an engineering technician II in the Special Services Division in the Flint, MI corporate office. He has 17 years' experience in the fields of construction and inspection.
- **Jon C. Ward, PE**, joined ROWE as a senior engineer in the Transportation Division in the Flint, MI corporate office. He has a B.S. in civil engineering from Michigan State University and 10 years' engineering experience.
- **Dean M. Welte** joined ROWE as a senior engineering technician in the Flint, MI corporate office. He has an A.S. degree in construction engineering technology from Ferris State University and 27 years' engineering supervision and technician experience.



K. Church



P. Horning



T. Kizer



D. Koehler



S. Kree



E. Latz



D. Robbins



J. Ward



D. Welte

For questions about these projects and more, contact Director of Corporate Marketing Jack Wheatley, PE, at JWheatley@rowepsc.com or (800) 837-9131.

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