MPLP Graduates Seeking House, Senate, Congressional Seats in Michigan Primary

In just a few days, more than two dozen Michigan Political Leadership Program graduates will be on the the state’s 2014 primary election ballot as candidates for House, Senate or U.S. Congress.

“We are proud of each and every MPLP graduate, and delighted to see so many of them seek public office,” said Douglas B. Roberts, Ph.D., director of the Institute for Public Policy and Social Research where MPLP makes its home.

A total 25 MPLP graduates have filed their intentions with the Michigan Secretary of State’s office. Of those, 18 filed for state House seats, six for state Senate and one for a seat in the U.S. Congress.

Candidates will appear on Michigan’s Tuesday, Aug. 5, 2014 primary ballot. This year’s general election takes place on Tuesday, Nov. 4.

Of the 18 seeking House seats, two are among MPLP’s newest graduates – from the Class of 2013.

Six MPLP alumni are seeking state Senate seats.

MPLP is the nation’s premier political leadership training program. Hosted by Michigan State University’s IPPSR since 1992, the program offers annual fellowships to 24 emerging leaders.

The program takes MPLP Fellows through 10 months of weekend training packed with tours, hands-on activities and spirited debates of public policy, media relations, campaign finance, and the rigors of good governing.

To date, about 45 percent of MPLP’s graduates are currently serving or have served in an appointed or elected capacity.

“It’s great to see so much interest in elected office from our MPLP alumni,” said MPLP Co-Director Anne Mervenne. She is chief executive office of governmental relations consulting firm Mervenne & Company and former executive in the administration of Gov. John Engler.

“We know that across the state, scores of MPLP graduates are seeking public office – from statewide to grassroots leadership posts.”

More information about MPLP, including applications for future classes and ways to support the program, are available online.
“Our Fellows tell us how important MPLP is to them,” said Co-Director Steve Tobocman, managing partner at New Solutions Group LLC and former state House Majority Floor Leader. “MPLP introduces Fellows to a vibrant new network. It introduces them to new communities and to speakers from the highest ranks of state government. It instills their futures.”

From 2010 to 2012, a total of 15 MPLP graduates all served in the state House at the same time.

In this year’s election, three pairs of MPLP grads will face each other in the primary vote.

Note: The complete list of MPLP alumni candidates seeking office in the state House, state Senate and U.S. Congress in the August primary election can be found online.

See a complete list of MPLP graduates serving in elective or appointed office.

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