For Immediate Release

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MPLP Graduates Win Primaries; Advance to General Election

After a late Tuesday night of stunningly close races, more than a dozen Michigan Political Leadership Program graduates are readying for new campaigns in the state’s November general election.

Five candidates for the state Senate, two of them to face each other, and six candidates for the Michigan House won primaries Aug. 5 to move on to the Tuesday, Nov. 4 vote. Another six MPLP graduates are incumbent state House members seeking re-election.

“This primary was marked by low turnout, crowded contests and some nail-biters in which the difference between winner and loser was 200 votes or less,” said Douglas B. Roberts, Ph.D., director of Michigan State University’s Institute for Public Policy and Social Research where MPLP makes its home.

“We are proud of all candidates, and especially proud of our MPLP alumni,” he said. Fourteen MPLP graduates now serve together in Michigan’s House of Representatives.

“That’s an incredible record,” 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.

“While not every candidate is successful, every one who runs for public office is a winner in so many ways,” she said.

“Our Fellows come from every profession and occupation, every region of the state. What they all share is a strong desire to serve,” said Co-Director Steve Tobocman, managing partner at New Solutions Group LLC and former state House Majority Floor Leader.

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. It is bipartisan.

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.

More information about MPLP, including applications for future classes and ways to support the program, are available online.

Note: The complete list of MPLP alumni candidates advancing to the November general election can be found online.

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