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Secretary Land awards \$4,958 to cover Fruitland Twp. polling place improvements

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Fruitland Township – [Secretary of State Terri Lynn Land](#) announced today that Fruitland Township in Muskegon County is receiving \$4,958 to improve polling place access to the White Lake Community Building.

Township officials have widened the building entrance and exit and installed a ballot call alert system. It allows voters with disabilities to request assistance with entry to the polling place.

"We're pleased to award these funds to Fruitland Township," said Land, Michigan's chief election officer. "Projects like these ensure that every voter has access to polling places and the opportunity to cast a ballot. I applaud the township for making these improvements and being a good partner."

This money is awarded through Michigan's Improving Access for All program, which reimburses communities for precinct enhancement projects. Nearly \$700,000 has been awarded to over 100 communities since Land unveiled the program in 2005. Past projects include sidewalk installation, upgrades to exterior pathways, accessible parking space signage and doorways that better accommodate voters with disabilities.

The program is funded through the Help America Vote Act (HAVA). The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services makes the money available to states so that they may meet the basic requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Communities apply to the Department of State after completing a survey of their precinct accessibility needs. Volunteers with the Michigan Protection & Advocacy Service assist local election officials with the surveys.

"MPAS is pleased to see the state honoring its commitment to improve the accessibility of elections," said Tom Masseau, MPAS government and media relations director. "The removal of physical barriers is essential to ensuring that people with disabilities have an equal opportunity to participate in the electoral process. We look forward to continued collaboration with local and state election officials as we work to improve access to the ballot for all Michigan citizens."

For more information, visit the Department of State Web site at www.Michigan.gov/sos. Click on "Elections in Michigan" and "Information for Election Administrators." The document is titled "Polling Place Improvement Grant Program."

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