



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL RIGHTS
EXECUTIVE

DANIEL H. KRICHBAUM, PhD
DIRECTOR

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Contact: Jacki Miller
Public Information Officer
313/456-4694
Millerj31@Michigan.gov



**Michigan Civil Rights Commission, Department of Civil Rights
Launch 50th Anniversary Celebration in Lansing**
50 city tour will celebrate "An Honorable Past and a Dynamic Future"

LANSING –The Michigan Civil Rights Commission (MCRC) and the Department of Civil Rights (MDCR) today launched their 50th anniversary celebration in Lansing. Department and Commission leaders held a press conference to detail anniversary plans followed by a celebration at the newly-opened Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum on the campus of Michigan State University.

"50 years ago Michigan set a new standard for civil rights protections, becoming the first state to create a Civil Rights Commission in its Constitution," said Dr. Daniel H. Krichbaum, MDCR Director. "The Commission and the Department work each day to live up to that legacy and ensure that every person can live, work and play free from discrimination."

On April 1, 1963, Michigan voters approved a new Constitution - the first Constitution in the United States to create a Civil Rights Commission charged with securing equal protection without discrimination. The next year, MDCR opened its doors as the staff support for the Commission's activities.

"Despite the upheaval going on throughout the nation at the time, the leaders who came together at the Constitutional Convention made a clear statement that Michigan is committed to protecting the rights of all people, no matter their race, religion or ethnicity," said Krichbaum. "And in the years since, Michigan has made an even stronger commitment to protect against discrimination based on gender, age and disability."

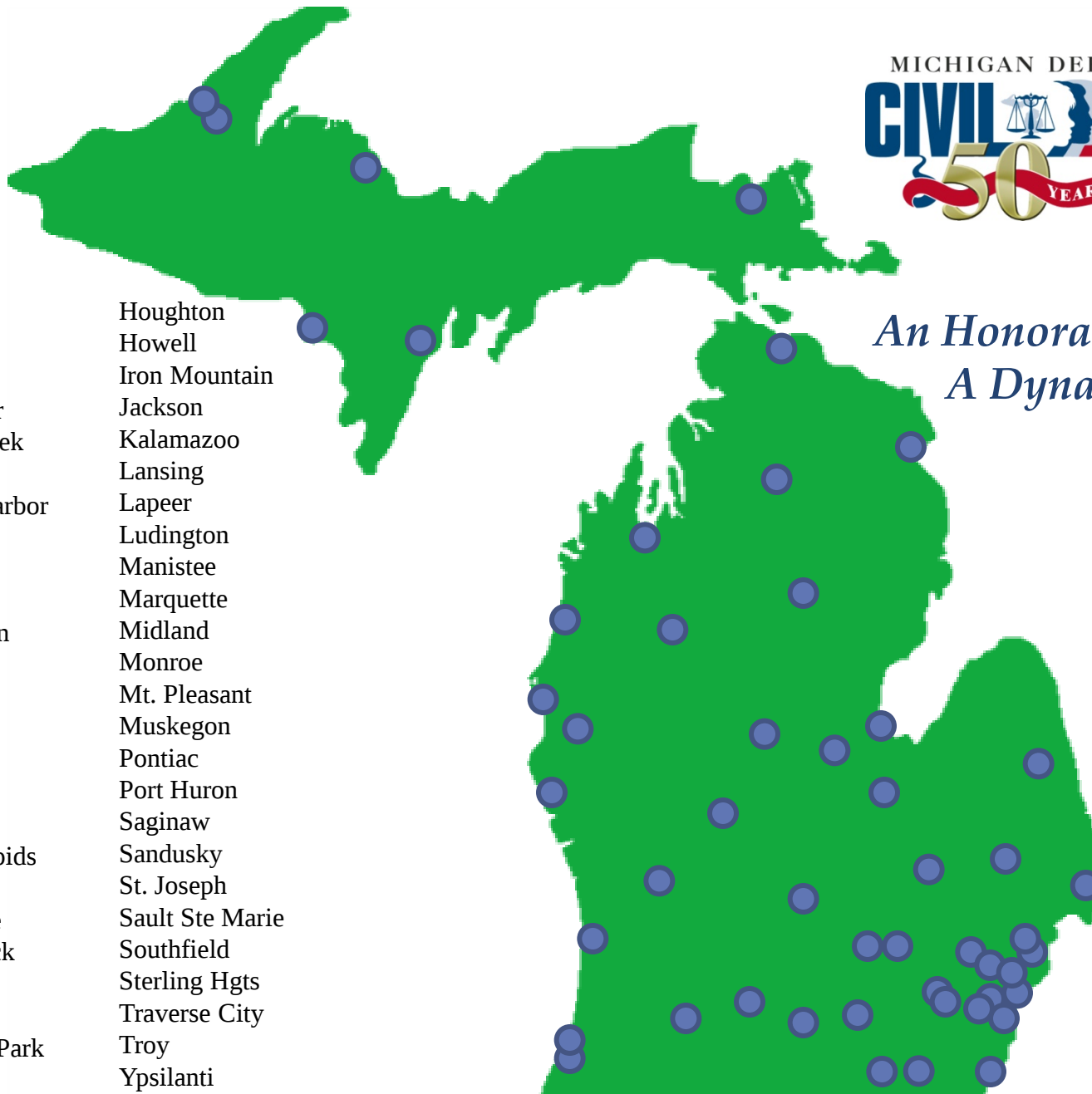
To mark the 50th anniversary of the creation of the MCRC, current Commissioners and MDCR staff will take to the road in a year-long tour visiting communities across the state. City visits will showcase MDCR services and provide an opportunity for department staff to meet with community leaders and citizens on a wide range of topics.

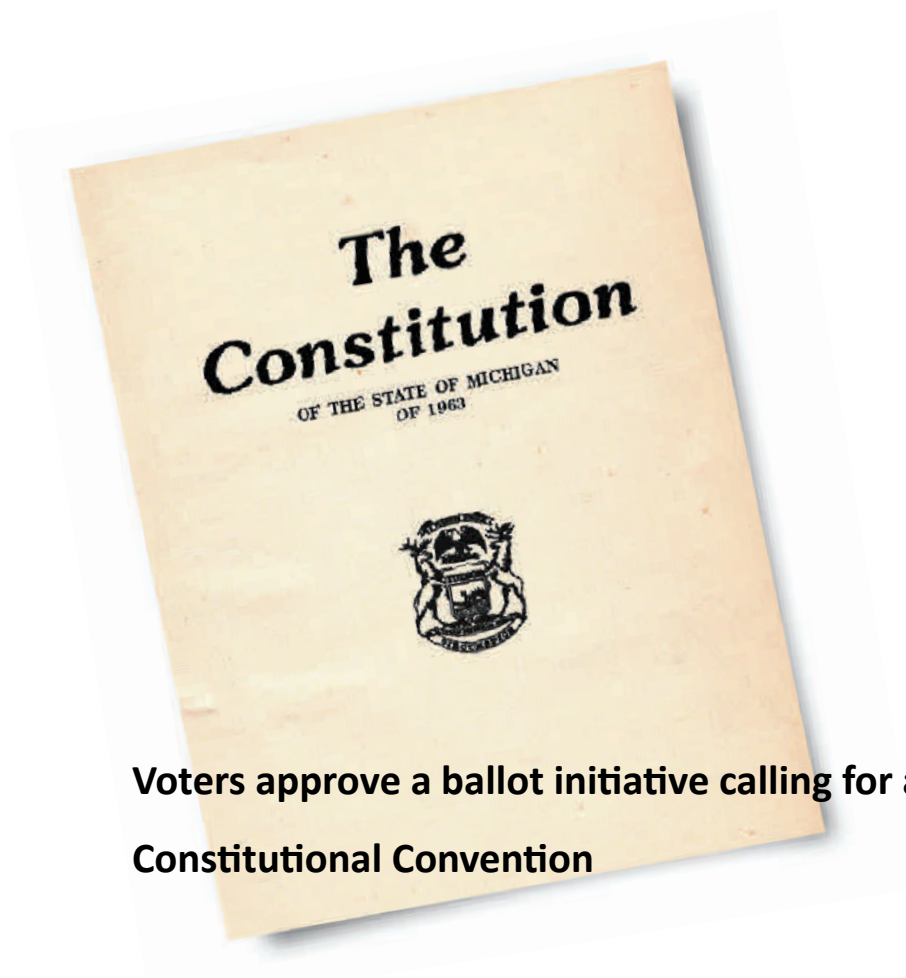
A schedule of events will be posted for the 50 city tour at www.michigan.gov/mdcr.



*An Honorable Past ...
A Dynamic Future*

Adrian	Houghton
Albion	Howell
Alpena	Iron Mountain
Ann Arbor	Jackson
Battle Creek	Kalamazoo
Bay City	Lansing
Benton Harbor	Lapeer
Blissfield	Ludington
Brighton	Manistee
Cadillac	Marquette
Cheboygan	Midland
Dearborn	Monroe
Detroit	Mt. Pleasant
Escanaba	Muskegon
Ferndale	Pontiac
Flint	Port Huron
Gaylord	Saginaw
Grand Rapids	Sandusky
Grayling	St. Joseph
Greenville	Sault Ste Marie
Hamtramck	Southfield
Hancock	Sterling Hgts
Hart	Traverse City
Highland Park	Troy
Holland	Ypsilanti





April 3, 1961

Voters approve a ballot initiative calling for a Constitutional Convention

October 3, 1961

144 delegates gather at the Lansing Civic Center and begin debate over a new constitution

August 1, 1962

Delegates approve a draft constitution which includes the creation of an eight-member Civil Rights Commission, the first constitutionally created commission in the country

April 1, 1963

Voters approve the new Constitution

January 1, 1964

The new Constitution takes effect

January 3, 1964

The newly-created and appointed Michigan Civil Rights Commission meets for the first time with co-chairs John Feikens and Damon J. Keith