

**U.S. Highbush Blueberry Council  
Cultivated Blueberry Promotion, Research and Information Order  
Council Member Ballot—Michigan State Representative**

*The nominees listed on this ballot are seeking the Michigan State Council Member seat on the U.S. Highbush Blueberry Council (USHBC). As a cultivated blueberry grower in the state of Michigan you are asked to cast your vote for one Michigan state council member, or to write in the name of your choice for state representative in Section #1 of this ballot.*

**Please complete this ballot and mail it back to the U.S. Highbush Blueberry Council (USHBC) in the enclosed, self-addressed envelope. Ballots must be received by the USHBC no later than close of business on Tuesday, May 29, 2007. Ballots received after that date will not be counted.**

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**USHBC Member Ballot – Michigan**

**Section #1: Michigan Growers**

**Michigan State Representative**

Growers from the state of Michigan who are producing cultivated blueberries in the state are asked to indicate their choice for state representative here:  
(choose **one** candidate only or provide name of write-in candidate)

MICHIGAN STATE REPRESENTATIVE CANDIDATES

- Robert Carini – West Olive, Michigan
- Kathryn Clemons - Pullman, Michigan
- Write-in Candidate:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

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**Section #2 TO BE COMPLETED BY ALL GROWERS  
CERTIFICATION STATEMENT**

I certify that I have produced a minimum of 2,000 pounds of cultivated blueberries at the location listed below during the twelve-month period of January 1, 2006 to December 31, 2006:

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Submission of Ballot to USHBC**

Once you have completed and signed this ballot please place this ballot in the enclosed, self addressed envelope and mail it to the U.S. Highbush Blueberry Council. **Incomplete ballots, unsigned ballots, or ballots received after May 29, 2007 will not be counted.**

If you have any questions concerning this ballot please contact the USHBC office at (916) 983-0111.

**USHBC Diversity Outreach Policy**

The USHBC has adopted a diversity outreach plan to attempt to achieve a diverse representation on the Council. USHBC programs are open to all individuals without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, genetic information, parental status and marital or family status. The USHBC fully complies with any and all applicable federal, state, and local equal employment opportunity statutes, ordinances and regulations, including but not limited to, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990; The Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1907; and The Equal Pay Act of 1963. It is USHBC policy that membership on the Council and its committees reflect the diversity of individuals served by its programs.

To accomplish this objective, the USHBC will strive to attain representation of growers and other industry participants from diverse backgrounds on the Council and USHBC committees. To this end, the USHBC strongly encourages women, minorities and persons with disabilities to seek nominations to the USHBC and to participate in Council and USHBC committee activities.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact the USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington D.C. 20250-9410 or call 202-720-5964 (voice and TDD).

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0581-0093. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 30 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information.

**USHBC COUNCIL MEMBER  
CANDIDATE STATEMENTS – MICHIGAN**

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**Robert Carini – West Olive, Michigan  
Candidate for: USHBC Michigan State Member**

I am a third generation blueberry grower from West Olive, Michigan. I currently serve on the USHBC as the state representative from Michigan, and serve on the Promotion Committee.

I believe that as an industry we need to continue to promote and do research on our product to help continue the strong demand. With careful management of the funds that we all contribute, I believe that we can continue to do this.

I have been involved with the USHBC and NABC, and have served in many state and local organizations, and would like to use the experience I have to continue to serve the blueberry industry.

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**Kathryn Clemons – Pullman, Michigan  
Candidate for: USHBC Michigan State Member**

Hi, my name is Kathy Clemons and I want to tell you about my background as a blueberry grower. Bob and I purchased our first farm in 1994. It was to be for our retirement in 2001. We had no one to lease the farm, so I quit my job as office manager and became a full time blueberry farmer. I attended practically every MSU session on blueberries and farm management, because I didn't know a thing about either one. We became MBG members for all the support and services that they offer. Next we joined the United Blueberry Producers, where during our casual monthly meetings I have broadened my circle of fellow blueberry growers. We now farm seventy-two acres of blueberries and operate our own fresh pack facility. For me, being a blueberry farmer is a lot less stressful than Office Management and I wouldn't have it any other way. Now I only have a lot of stress during harvest.

Next Bob and I started attending the NABC meetings and became members. There we found blueberry growers from all over the country working together on issues that affect the whole blueberry industry. Thru the NABC meetings we learned about the formation of the USHBC and what the function was going to be. Bob and I attended most of the meetings in organizing the USHBC to learn more about the organization. Since the USHBC became a reality, I have attended all but three meetings. I encourage all of you to try to attend the USHBC meetings. It is a great opportunity to learn first hand about the research and promotional programs that are being funded.

In 2004 I was elected as the Alternate for the state of Michigan. I presently serve you on the Industry Relations Committee. While at the meetings, I sit in on the other committee meetings to be aware of the different proposals that are brought up. As part of the "peanut gallery" you can get in on a lot of the discussions for proposed funding of research and promotions that the committees are considering. We in the blueberry industry have a lot of common issues that need to be addressed, from labor issues to food safety, expanding the market to other countries, and research. I would like to have the opportunity to represent you as "Your Michigan Delegate".