



# OAKLAND COUNTY CLERK/REGISTER OF DEEDS

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## ELECTIONS DIVISION

LISA BROWN  
COUNTY CLERK/REGISTER OF DEEDS

JOSEPH J. ROZELL, CERA  
DIRECTOR OF ELECTIONS

July 15, 2020

Clerk Aileen Dickson  
500 W Big Beaver Rd.  
Troy, MI 48084-5285

Dear Clerk Aileen Dickson:

As requested by the Oakland County Board of Commissioners, enclosed is a certified copy of Miscellaneous Resolution #20172 Board of Commissioners – Encourage Oakland County Voters to Vote by Mail in 2020 August Primary and November General Elections and Declare Support for Michigan Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson's Action to Mail Out Absentee Ballot Applications to All Michigan Registered Voters adopted on June 25, 2020.

If you have any questions, please contact the office at (248) 858-0563.

Sincerely,

Joseph J. Rozell, CERA  
Director of Elections  
County of Oakland

### ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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**REPORT (MISC. #20172)**

June 25, 2020

BY: Commissioner David T. Woodward, Chairperson, Pandemic Response and Economic Recovery Committee

**IN RE: MR #20172 - BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS – ENCOURAGE OAKLAND COUNTY VOTERS TO VOTE BY MAIL IN 2020 AUGUST PRIMARY AND NOVEMBER GENERAL ELECTIONS AND DECLARE SUPPORT FOR MICHIGAN SECRETARY OF STATE JOCELYN BENSON'S ACTION TO MAIL OUT ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATIONS TO ALL MICHIGAN REGISTERED VOTERS**

To the Oakland County Board of Commissioners

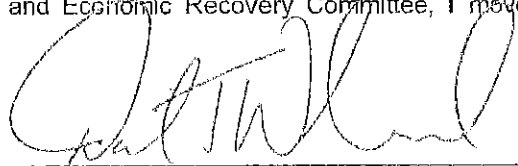
Chairperson, Ladies and Gentlemen:

The Pandemic Response and Economic Recovery Committee, having reviewed the above-referenced resolution on June 22, 2020, reports to recommend adoption of the resolution with the following amendment(s):

Remove the 3rd WHEREAS paragraph, as follows:

~~WHEREAS Oakland County has the highest number of cases of any county in Michigan; and~~

Chairperson, on behalf of the Pandemic Response and Economic Recovery Committee, I move the acceptance of the foregoing report.



Commissioner David T. Woodward, District #19  
Chairperson, Pandemic Response and  
Economic Recovery Committee

**PANDEMIC RESPONSE AND ECONOMIC RECOVERY COMMITTEE VOTE:**

Motion carried on a roll call vote with Spisz, Taub and Kuhn voting no and Miller absent.

**MISCELLANEOUS RESOLUTION #20172**

BY: Commissioner Marcia Gershenson, District #13

**IN RE: BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS – ENCOURAGE OAKLAND COUNTY VOTERS TO VOTE BY MAIL IN 2020 AUGUST PRIMARY AND NOVEMBER GENERAL ELECTIONS AND DECLARE SUPPORT FOR MICHIGAN SECRETARY OF STATE JOCELYN BENSON'S ACTION TO MAIL OUT ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATIONS TO ALL MICHIGAN REGISTERED VOTERS**

To the Oakland County Board of Commissioners

Ladies and Gentlemen:

WHEREAS the nation and Oakland County is in the midst of a pandemic caused by a novel coronavirus known as COVID-19; and

WHEREAS the United States is the country with the most recorded cases of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS Oakland County has the highest number of cases of any county in Michigan; and

WHEREAS the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, proposed a number of recommendations in preparation for future elections including: encourage mail-in methods of voting if allowed in the jurisdiction and early voting; and

WHEREAS the COVID-19 pandemic requires all communities to take precautionary measures to protect voters, election poll workers and volunteers, while preserving democracy and making voting as easy and safe in upcoming elections; and

WHEREAS early voting, absentee voting and mail-in voting ballots have all increased in the last 20 years; and

WHEREAS as of now, five states use vote-by-mail as their primary way of voting: Oregon, Washington, Colorado, Utah and Hawaii; and

WHEREAS furthermore, those serving in the military rely on mail-in absentee voting for those deployed overseas; and

WHEREAS in 2018, one in four Americans who cast a ballot did so through the mail; and

WHEREAS Americans should not have to choose between their health and casting a ballot; and

WHEREAS in the May 2020 elections in Michigan, all voters were sent an absentee ballot application; and

WHEREAS the May 2020 election, saw record turnout which was nearly twice as big as any prior May election - 99% of all voters casted absentee ballots; and

WHEREAS on May 19, 2020, Michigan Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson, a Democrat, announced that the state will send an absentee application to each Michigan registered voter for the August Primary and November Elections in 2020; and

WHEREAS Benson explained that her decision was based on safety during the COVID-19 pandemic, for voters, clerks and volunteers; and

WHEREAS Republican Secretaries of State in Kentucky, West Virginia and Georgia have all turned to mail voting systems to keep residents safe; and

WHEREAS in Michigan, mailing absentee ballot applications ensures that no Michigander must choose between their health and their right to vote; and

WHEREAS because voters in Michigan approved Proposition 3 in 2018, with Oakland County voters approving it with 65%, every Michigander has the right to cast an absentee ballot; and

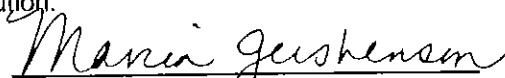
WHEREAS voting by mail is easy, convenient, safe, and secure; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT REOLVED for public health and safety considerations in response to COVID-19 in upcoming elections in 2020, the Oakland County Board of Commissioners encourages voters to vote by mail.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Oakland County Board of Commissioners supports Michigan Secretary of State Joselyn Benson's action to mail applications for absentee ballots to all registered voters.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Oakland County Clerk is directed to forward a copy of this resolution to Governor Gretchen Whitmer, Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson, all local clerks in Oakland County, the State Senate Majority and Minority leaders, the State House Speaker and Minority leader, members of the Oakland County State Legislature delegation.

Chairperson, I move the adoption of the foregoing resolution.



Commissioner Marcia Gershenson  
District #13

Resolution #20172

May 28, 2020

The Chairperson referred the resolution to the Pandemic Response and Economic Recovery Committee.  
There were no objections.

Moved by Gershenson seconded by Jackson the resolution be adopted.

Discussion followed.

Moved by Gershenson seconded by Jackson the Pandemic Response and Economic Recovery Committee Report be accepted.

AYES: Miller, Nelson, Powell, Quarles, Spisz, Weipert, Woodward, Zack, Gershenson, Hoffman, Jackson, Kochenderfer, Kowall, Kuhn, Luebs, Markham, McGillivray. (17)  
NAYS: Taub, Gingell, Middleton. (3)

A sufficient majority having voted in favor, the report was accepted.

Discussion followed.

Moved by Taub seconded by Gingell the resolution be amended as follows:  
Amend the title as follow:

~~BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS – ENCOURAGE OAKLAND COUNTY VOTERS TO VOTE BY MAIL  
IN 2020 AUGUST PRIMARY AND NOVEMBER GENERAL ELECTIONS AND DECLARE SUPPORT  
FOR MICHIGAN SECRETARY OF STATE JOCELYN BENSON'S ACTION TO MAIL OUT  
ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATIONS TO ALL MICHIGAN REGISTERED VOTERS~~

Amend following language in the 13th WHEREAS as follow:

WHEREAS on May 19, 2020, Michigan Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson, ~~a Democrat~~, announced that the state will send an absentee application to each Michigan registered voter for the August Primary and November Elections in 2020; and

Amend following language in the 15<sup>th</sup> WHEREAS as follow:

WHEREAS ~~Republican~~ Secretaries of State in Kentucky, West Virginia and Georgia have all turned to mail voting systems to keep residents safe; and

Discussion followed.

Vote on amendment:

AYES Spisz, Taub, Weipert, Gingell, Hoffman, Kochenderfer, Kowall, Kuhn, Middleton. (9)  
NAYS: Nelson, Powell, Quarles, Woodward, Zack, Gershenson, Jackson, Luebs, Markham, McGillivray, Miller. (11)

A sufficient majority not having voted in favor, the amendment failed.

Moved by Gingell the resolution be amended as follows:  
Insert the following language after the 1<sup>st</sup> BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Oakland County Board of Commissioners rescinds its previous action approving Voting Day as a County Holiday and providing the day off at the cost to the taxpayers now that all voters have received the opportunity to vote absentee with no reason and substitute Voting Day with Juneteenth as a County Holiday.**

Chairperson David Woodward ruled the amendment not germane to the resolution on the floor.

Moved by Gingell seconded by Kowall to overturn the ruling of the Chairperson.

Vote on motion to overturn the ruling:

AYES Spisz, Taub, Weipert, Gingell, Hoffman, Kochenderfer, Kowall, Kuhn, Middleton. (9)

NAYS: Powell, Quarles, Woodward, Zack, Gershenson, Jackson, Luebs, Markham, McGillivray, Miller, Nelson. (11)

A sufficient majority not having voted in favor, the motion to overturn the ruling of the Chairperson failed.

Discussion followed.

Moved by Taub seconded by Gingell the resolution be amended as follows:

Strike all political parties from the resolution.

Discussion followed.

Vote on amendment:

AYES: Spisz, Taub, Weipert, Gingell, Hoffman, Kochenderfer, Kowall, Kuhn, Middleton. (9)

NAYS: Quarles, Woodward, Zack, Gershenson, Jackson, Luebs, Markham, McGillivray, Miller, Nelson, Powell. (11)


A sufficient majority not having voted in favor, the amendment failed.

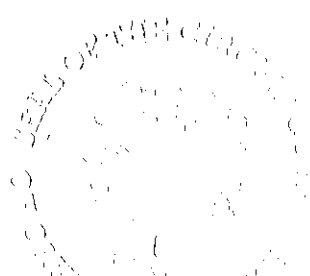
Vote on resolution, as presented:

AYES: Woodward, Zack, Gershenson, Jackson, Luebs, Markham, McGillivray, Miller, Nelson, Powell, Quarles. (11)

NAYS: Spisz, Taub, Gingell, Hoffman, Kochenderfer, Kowall, Kuhn, Middleton. (8)

A sufficient majority having voted in favor, the resolution, as presented, was adopted.

  
I HEREBY APPROVE THIS RESOLUTION  
CHIEF DEPUTY COUNTY EXECUTIVE  
ACTING PURSUANT TO MCL 45.559A (7)

  
STATE OF MICHIGAN)  
COUNTY OF OAKLAND)

I, Lisa Brown, Clerk of the County of Oakland, do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution is a true and accurate copy of a resolution adopted by the Oakland County Board of Commissioners on June 25, 2020, with the original record thereof now remaining in my office.

In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the Circuit Court at Pontiac, Michigan this 25<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2020.

  
Lisa Brown, Oakland County