

**MISCELLANEOUS RESOLUTION #20250**

July 15, 2020

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

**IN RE: BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS – ESTABLISH PROTECT DEMOCRACY ELECTION WORKER RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION PROGRAM WITHIN THE OAKLAND TOGETHER LOCAL GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP GRANT**

To the Oakland County Board of Commissioners

Chairperson, Ladies and Gentlemen:

WHEREAS elections are the foundation of our democracy; and

WHEREAS election officials across the country are facing staffing challenges long in the making, now accelerated by the pandemic; and

WHEREAS in-person access to the ballot box rests on the vulnerable shoulders of a cohort of steadfast, but elderly, election workers at risk of exposure to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS the average age of election workers in Michigan is 74 years old, a vulnerable, at-risk population of serious complications due to COVID-19. Many long time election workers have chosen not to work the election this year due to safety concerns; and

WHEREAS election officials are facing increased pressure to recruit new election workers ahead of the 2020 August Primary and November General Election; and

WHEREAS the Michigan Secretary of State has launched a new program, "Democracy MVP", which celebrates election workers as "the Most Valuable Players of our democracy, ensuring free and fair elections for all"; and

WHEREAS Oakland County has 506 local polling precincts and 52 absentee voting county boards requiring over an estimated 3,300 election workers across the County; and

WHEREAS the Oakland County Board of Commissioners formed the Oakland County Safe, Healthy and Secure Election Advisory Council to identify challenges and barriers for having safe, healthy and secure elections in 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS the Advisory Council recommends funding an election worker recruitment and retention program in the amount of \$50 above the full day rate, per worker, as established by the local community as of June 2020; and

WHEREAS the Advisory Council recommends that the payment be provided to election workers for work performed in the Michigan August Primary Election and November General Election; and

WHEREAS payment would be made in the form of a reimbursement grant to the unit of government directly responsible for the employment of election workers. The hazard compensation provided within the program is an eligible expense as authorized by the County's CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Funds; and

WHEREAS funds are appropriated and available in the Oakland Together Local Government Partnership program, per Miscellaneous Resolution #20187.

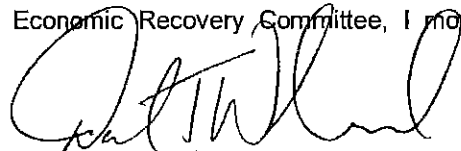
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Oakland County Board of Commissioners hereby recognizes the crucial role poll workers play during elections, the challenges local clerks are facing recruiting for this year's elections during the pandemic.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Board of Commissioners hereby amends the policies and procedures for the Oakland Together Local Government Partnership program to authorize its Oversight Committee to administer a \$50 per day payment per election worker who works a full day in Oakland County during Michigan's August Primary Election and November General Election.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that no budget amendment is required as funding is to come from the Oakland Together Local Government Partnership authorized by Miscellaneous Resolution #20187.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to all of Oakland County local election clerks.

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



Commissioner David Woodward, District #17  
Chairperson, Pandemic Response and Economic Recovery Committee

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

Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Moved by Gershenson seconded by Weipert the resolution be adopted.

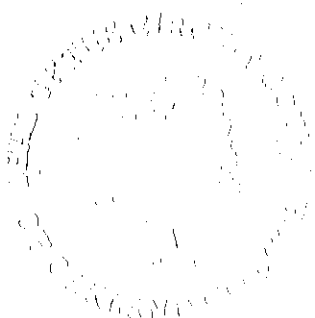
AYES: Kuhn, Long, Luebs, Markham, McGillivray, Miller, Nelson, Powell, Quarles, Spisz, Taub, Weipert, Woodward, Zack, Gershenson, Hoffman, Jackson, Kochenderfer, Kowall. (19)

NAYS: None. (0)

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 July 15, 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 15<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2020.



Lisa Brown, Oakland County