

**WHEREAS**, Since the passage of Proposal 18-3 in 2018 that authorized no-reason absentee voting, election officials have been predicting that Michigan Election Law would need to be revised to allow more time for absent voter counting boards (AVCB) to process the expected increase in absentee ballots; and

**WHEREAS**, Senate Bill 757 was introduced by State Senator Ruth Johnson and passed by the Michigan Senate Elections Committee in February, 2020, would allow pre-processing of absentee ballots by the AVCB on the Monday prior to Election Day, during the hours of 10 AM to 8 PM, would not allow voted ballots to be removed from the secrecy sleeves on Monday, and would allow tabulating to begin at 7:00 AM on Election Day; and

**WHEREAS**, The COVID-19 pandemic has caused a shift in voting habits of Troy voters from 25% absentee voting during elections prior to March, 2020 to 50-75% absentee voting for the March and August, 2020 elections, respectively; and

**WHEREAS**, Michigan Election Law currently allows the processing of absentee ballots to begin at 7 AM on Election Day, and to continue through Election Day until all ballots are processed; and

**WHEREAS**, The Troy City Clerk's Office currently has more than 25,500 absentee ballot applications on file for the November 3 General Election, with a total number of ballots expecting to reach 30,000, the highest number of absentee ballots ever issued in Troy's history; and

**WHEREAS**, Processing this many absentee ballots will take two days, meaning under current Election Law, the Election Inspectors and Clerk's Office staff will have to work through the night on November 3 and well into November 4 in order to complete the processing of the expected 30,000 absentee ballots; and

**WHEREAS**, Senate Bill 757 continues to be discussed by the Michigan Legislature, and has received bipartisan support from legislators, from the Michigan Secretary of State, and from Clerks and Election Officials throughout Michigan, but has not been taken up for a vote of the full Senate;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, That Troy City Council hereby **URGES** Michigan Senate Majority Leader Shirkey to take up Senate Bill 757 for a vote of the full Senate as soon as possible so it can be enacted in time for the November 3, 2020 General Election; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That Troy City Council hereby **CALLS UPON** the members of the Michigan Legislature to support Senate Bill 757 in order to provide a realistic, responsible, secure plan for Absent Voter Counting Boards to complete the processing of the record number of absentee ballots expected for the November 3, 2020 General Election.

**Signed this 14<sup>th</sup> Day of September, 2020**