

Council Referral from Council Member Erickson Gault: Resolution in Opposition to Legislation Restricting Voting Rights or Interfering with Local Clerks Election Procedures

Resolution #2021-05-

Moved by

Seconded by

WHEREAS, Full and open participation in our democracy is fundamental to our system of governance; and,

WHEREAS, Troy voters overwhelmingly approved Proposal 3 in November 2018 enshrining various voting rights in our state Constitution including universal ballots and other measures that expand access to the ballot;

WHEREAS, The Troy City Clerk conducted four elections since Proposal 3 without incident, including three that took place during the COVID-19 pandemic and during periods of unreliable mail delivery, and the Troy City Clerk's secure ballot drop boxes were critical to allowing voters to exercise their right to vote without subjecting themselves to the risks posed by in person voting; and

WHEREAS, The Secretary of State conducted an election audit following the November 2020 election that found no evidence of widespread fraud or election irregularities, and a Troy precinct was included in that audit; and

WHEREAS, Several bills have been introduced in the Michigan Legislature that restrict voting rights including limiting the use of ballot drop boxes that are a safe and efficient way to cast a vote, limiting voting by mail to those with a copy machine to scan additional documentation, and giving election challengers stronger protections than poll workers on Election Day that could significantly lengthen in person voting wait times; and,

WHEREAS, Additional bills have been introduced in the Legislature that could hamper election administration such as restricting the amount of time local clerks have to process absentee ballots that could significantly delay election results, creating unnecessarily strict requirements for the challenging and inspection process, giving unelected canvassing boards more power to reject certification of legitimate elections, and requiring unreasonable time restraints that could prevent clerks from counting all valid ballots; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Troy City Council stands in opposition to any legislation or effort of Michigan legislators to restrict voting rights and hamper election administration.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Troy City Council urges Michigan legislators to listen to and follow the advice of local clerks on how legislation will impede their ability to conduct efficient and accurate elections or interfere with citizens' exercise of their right

to vote.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, That this Resolution be forwarded to the elected officials in the Michigan Legislature who represent the City of Troy and the leadership of the Michigan House and Senate with the request that they advocate for the expansion, not restriction, of voting rights and supporting, not hampering, election administration as part of their legislative priorities.

Yes:

No: