

**Oakland County Clerks Association Resolution Pertaining to Election Legislation Being
Considered in the State of Michigan Legislature**

WHEREAS, the Oakland County Clerks Association (OCCA) is comprised of city, township and village Clerks from throughout Oakland County; and

WHEREAS, OCCA members are committed to transparent and efficient election administration; and

WHEREAS, OCCA members are committed to maintaining election training and best practices to deliver secure and accurate elections for our communities; and

WHEREAS, we consider the right to vote for our registered voters as a sacred, inviolable right of all American citizens; and

WHEREAS, we believe our democracy is strongest when we have the greatest level of participation by our citizens; and

WHEREAS, safe and secure options to vote are vital to ensuring voter participation; and

WHEREAS, government has a responsibility to continuously improve and strengthen election administration, because faith in security and integrity of our elections is fundamental; and

WHEREAS, we are committed to making sure our citizens have equitable access to the ballot and are able to exercise their right to vote whether it is in-person at a polling location or by absentee ballot.

NOW THEREFORE BE IS RESOLVED, that the Oakland County Clerks Association hereby **SUPPORTS** the following legislation that provide cost savings, improve participation or expands access to voting, provide for accurate voter registration rolls, or helps to improve the election administration processes for our citizens:

SB 274	Allows for pre-registration of 16 ½ to 17 ½ individuals
SB 277/HB 4491	Authorizes and sets timeline for entry into the QVF by County Clerk for death records
SB 295	Requires election workers to conduct regular balancing check on precinct tabulators during election day
SB 298	Extends deadline for certifying election by Board of County Canvassers
SB 311	Requires acceptance of military overseas ballots electronically
HB 4492	Expands polling locations to include non-profit organizations
HB 4528	Requires training for election challengers

HB 4361	Requires Clerks to maintain a permanent absentee voter list
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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Oakland County Clerks Association hereby **SUPPORTS IN CONCEPT BUT OPPOSED AS WRITTEN** the following legislation that without modification may otherwise be cumbersome; may create confusion and havoc in precinct or absentee counting board; not sufficient in scope; is excessive; creates more work for election officials than is necessary; does not consider the actual processes used for election; or are arbitrary in nature:

SB 278	Must collect ballots from ballot drop boxes in an approved container; custody log required	Supports only if requirements apply to ballot drop boxes not located in or on a municipal complex. Needs clarification on what type of container can be used.
SB 279	Modifies number of challengers in AVCB when using combined AVCBs with more than 1 community or through the County	Number of challengers is too high. In an AVCB with 9000 ballots, Could have 8 challengers (4 from each party) – possibly more than the number of election workers assigned to AVCB; space issue with additional people; does not allow for political interest groups to have additional challengers
SB 282	Limits access to QVF to SOS, designated voter registration agency, county, city or township clerk	Needs to include sworn Clerk's office staff
SB 283	Allows for municipalities over 25,000 to preprocess absentee ballots between 10 a.m. and 8 p.m. the day prior to election;	Need more time to process; no provision for early tabulation; does not help small communities with limited staff and resources
SB 299	Requires returns to the municipal clerk by 12 noon the day after election	Does not provided enough time to process if there is no accommodation for early tabulating of absentee ballots in large communities; unclear what procedure is if the results are not electronically uploaded by deadline

SB 306 and HB 4129	Requires SOS to report and publish on website a report regarding clerks who are not current with training;	Agree with training and transparency; would like a notification to clerk who is deficient and an opportunity to correct it
SB 308	Requires signature verification training to clerks and precinct workers; requires SOS to establish objective signature verification process	Signatures are not verified by precinct workers – these workers should be exempt; supports training of Clerks and authorized staff
HB 4134 – H-1	Increases size of precinct to 4,000 beginning in 2022; requires clerks to maintain permanent AV list; permanent AV status moves with voter; updates language	Supports with revisions consolidation with other polling locations; need to increase number of voters allowed with consolidation
HB 4362	Amends rules for establishing the number of electors in a precinct to exclude those on a Perm AV list; established postmarked ballot on or before election day and received with 48 hours after 8 p.m. on election day to be tabulated; requires overseas military to receive applications to vote 75 days prior to election with pre-paid return envelope; supply pre-paid return envelopes with ballots	Opposed as written. Supports precinct number calculation; oppose arbitrary 8 p.m. 48 hours after election for ballot tabulation; pre-paid postage should be local decision. Too much is trying to be done in this bill.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Oakland County Clerks Association hereby **OPPOSES** the following legislation that will further hinder the efficient administration of elections, creates undue work; establishes unfunded mandates; create unnecessary paperwork; has the potential to intimidate voters; may cause confusion and create a lack context if implemented, threaten the secrecy of the ballot; is cumbersome in nature and creates busy work for Clerks and staff, is unrealistic in scope and size and may cause havoc in precincts and absentee counting boards; does not consider how election administration and election auditing is currently conducted; does not adequately address the need to process and tabulate ballots early for timely election results; eliminates funding sources for local governments for election related equipment and materials; creates more work and increases inefficiency and costs for local municipalities; is duplicative; creates increased traffic on election day in the Clerk's office taking them away from precincts and absentee counting boards; overreaches local municipalities authority; creates unnecessary burdens for funding appropriation; can be considered as elector intimidation;

stresses the ability to employ an adequate number of election workers; causes disenfranchisement of low-income and/or senior electors; is excessive in nature; creates work for already overburden precinct election staff; is arbitrary in nature; or makes voting harder and or less accessible:

SB 275	Provides for political party observers for Election Audit and live-streaming; Sec. 801b provides for live-streaming tabulation of election	Oppose Sec. 801b in its entirety. Voter intimidation concerns with live streaming; who has authority the county or municipality? Concern with exposure of voted ballots; concern about live-streaming of audit without context. Live-stream of audit may be okay if done by Clerk or designee; Opposed to political observers if no limit is in place for the number allowed per precinct/absentee counting board
SB 276	Authorizes election workers, challengers, poll watchers to photograph and videotape tabulation of ballots	Voter intimidation concerns; concern with maintaining secret ballot which is protected by State Constitution
SB 284	Prohibits receiving private money to be used for election related activities and equipment; requires SOS to report to legislature on contracts and election related activities	Would eliminate grants for election related activities; too broad in scope
SB 285	Requires submission of identification forelection purposes to obtain absentee ballot; requires provisional ballot to be issued to absent voter without identification	Increase in costs due having to now use envelopes and return envelopes for applications instead of postcard applications; extra materials for clerk to maintain and secure; same information is on the QVF; increase record keeping for insufficient applications; will delay election results; disenfranchises low income, seniors and those without

		means to obtain ID; information not secure in mail stream; duplicative; not necessary
SB 286	Moves deadline to submit absent ballot in a drop box to 5:00 p.m. the day before the election.	Will exasperate already busy clerk's counter on election day; no reason for change; inconvenient; could disenfranchise voters; makes it harder to vote; some drop boxes are multi-purpose for municipalities. Not clear on what the goal of this legislation or concept is.
SB 287	Prohibits pre-paid postage on absentee ballot return envelope	Overreach – should be up to the community
SB 288	Allow political party observers at election audit; requires SOS to live-stream election audit	SOS and county run audits, not municipality, observers okay; audits should be open to public; supports transparency; excessive timeframe for hosting video on website; Need clarification on what this bill is attempting to do.
SB 290	Increase number of challengers to allow for one for every candidate or party on ballot; requires name tag with party and candidate name for challenger	Would allow for too many challengers in comparison to number of workers – could have 100 challengers in precinct and 6 workers; name tags should not identify candidate because that can be conceived as intimidating and/or campaigning; organizations are not accommodated

SB 291, 292, and 293	Decriminalizes challengers who sign affidavit of training that are fraudulent	Takes penalty out of crime
SB 294	Requires report regarding the appointment of an equal number of election inspectors from each political party in each precinct	Already do this to the best of our ability; provide to Election Commission; last minute changes or makeup of community sometimes make it impossible
SB 299	Requires returns to the municipal clerk by 12 noon the day after election	Does not provided enough time to process if there is no accommodation for early tabulating of absentee ballots in large communities; unclear what procedure is if the results are not electronically uploaded by deadline
SB 302	Amends wording on voter registration	Targets students, confusing for applicants; Duplicative – voter gives authorization to cancel other registration
SB 303	Requires provisional ballot for elector who does not have id for election purposes; waives fee for state identification for eligible individuals	Disenfranchises low-income, senior voters; current process identifies electors without IDs. Report number after every election and can be tracked for 6 years if questionable.
SB 305 and HB 4511	Prohibits Clerk name or likeness of SOS, county clerk or local clerk on communication related to certain election activities	Excessive; prohibits name on mail, social media, etc. Okay for not on ballots or applications, but should be okay on informational, overbroad
SB 307	Requires providing full text of ballot proposal to voter	Some proposals are very long, extra work for clerk's office and cost – easily obtainable by other means
SB 309	Amends rights of election challengers including distance between election worker and challenger, adds reason for challenges including elector not being in poll book, individual is claiming the identity of another individual who has already voted, identification is fraudulent or invalid; can obtain vote totals after polls close, can use phone/laptop or other electronic device; election chair must provide	Distance is arbitrary and could be abused; challengers are not experts on validity of identification; it is already possible to get election totals once ballots are tabulated – provision not necessary; no electronic devices should be allowed that can record hinder or impeded voters; Chairs don't have time to

	written explanation for expulsion from precinct	create written explanation – they can enter information into poll book and document as with any other event on election day
SB 310	Prohibits SOS from sending or providing absent voter ballot applications and prohibits absentee application link on SOS website	Makes voting absentee harder; need to prohibit 3 rd parties from sending applications – very time consuming for clerk's offices to process duplicate applications; only clerk or SOS should send applications

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Oakland County Clerk's Association forwards a copy of this resolution to Governor Gretchen Whitmer and members of the Michigan House Elections and Ethics Committee and the Michigan Senate Elections Committee and to urge our State representatives to fight to maintain transparency and equitable access to the ballot for the voters of Oakland County.

MOTION by Aileen Dickson and SUPPORT by Sharon Tischler to adopt the Oakland County Clerks Association Resolution Pertaining to Election Legislation Being Considered in the State of Michigan Legislature with clarification that OCCA opposes SB 309.

AYES: ALL

NAYS: NONE

MOTION CARRIED

I, Marne McGrath, the duly appointed secretary to the Oakland County Clerks Association, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete resolution adopted by the membership of the Oakland County Clerks Association at a Special Meeting held on May 20, 2021

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto affixed my official signature on this 20th day of May, 2021



Marne McGrath, City Clerk