

Thursday, February 10, 2022

City Council President Mary Sheffield
2 Woodward Ave. Suite 1340
Detroit, MI 48226

Dear Detroit City Council,

On behalf of All Voting Is Local, Voters Not Politicians, Detroit Action, Michigan United, and concerned voters throughout the state of Michigan, we write to encourage you to [pass a resolution supporting increased access to voting for Detroiters](#). The Wayne County Board of Commissioners recently [passed a resolution](#) to support pro-voting policies and principles. The Oakland County Board of Commissioners passed a [similar resolution](#), as did the Ingham County Board of Commissioners. In December, the [Lansing City Council adopted a resolution](#) opposing the Secure MI Vote petition. As leaders of Michigan's largest city, your support for protecting voting rights carries weight that will help influence others to take a stand and help protect voting rights in Michigan.

After a historic grassroots campaign to pass Proposal 3 in 2018, voters across the state took advantage of greater access to absentee voting in 2020, using the option in record numbers. In addition to the new measures from Proposal 3, many communities across Michigan implemented new pro-voter policies such as expanded hours for in-person absentee voting, ballot drop boxes, and prepaid postage for absentee voting. Many communities throughout Michigan, including the city of Detroit, received critical grants which allowed clerks to provide additional services to voters and more effectively administer elections. This year, local clerks may need the support of local government leaders to deliver these services and appropriately serve Michigan voters.

Based on conversations we've had with clerks, advocates and voters across Michigan, we believe in assisting that adopting the following priorities would solve pressing election problems:

1. At least one week of early voting and expanded satellite voting locations;
2. Public funding for postage for absentee ballots, secure ballot drop boxes and ballot tracking;
3. Additional time for military and overseas voters to return their absentee ballots;
4. Allowing voters to request an absentee ballot for all future elections;
5. Allowing for a robust pre-processing and counting period to help provide faster results for voters;
6. Allocating funding to local clerks through standards that equitably serve voters;
7. Support poll worker recruitment by providing additional tools for local clerks

With your support, we can expand access to the ballot and thwart efforts to roll back the progress we made in 2020

Sincerely,

All Voting is Local Michigan
Voters Not Politicians
Detroit Action
Michigan United