

Written testimony to the Michigan House Elections and Ethics Committee

Max Rohtbart, Republican Nominee Oakland County Commission District 13 2020, and Election Inspector from 2012-2018.

I am writing to testify in opposition to SB 303 and 304. In 2012, I signed up to be an election inspector in Bloomfield Township. From that time until the 2018 Midterm election I have worked as an election inspector including as a chair and co-chair of an election day precinct. I was unable to work as an election inspector in 2020 because I was a Republican nominee in a general election.

This proposal before the committee, if adopted into law, would cause an enormous increase to the workload for overworked and underfunded election officials without any statistically significant increase for election security.

The greatest issues for our poll workers and voters will be the significant increase in delays for individuals to complete the voting process. The process of moving a voter from the line to the tabulation of their ballot requires multiple stations of election inspectors each one checking and balancing the work of the others to prevent mistakes being made. When a voter starts the provisional envelope ballot process it throws a wrench into that chain of stations and disrupts the flow of voters moving from one station to another. When I had to begin processing a provisional envelope ballot it completely disrupted the flow of voters moving from one station to another in my precinct. What I remember from the provisional envelope ballot process is it caused a significant backup as it required multiple workers to be removed from their stations to process the provisional ballot envelope application.

These bills if passed into law would make the job of us election inspectors even harder, increase wait times for people in line to vote, and at the same time have no impact on election security beyond that of security theater while making it harder for legal voters to cast their votes. Michigan has one of the best photo id voting laws in the country and we should hold it up as a model for other states instead of changing it in a gesture of security theater that wont actually improve election security.