



Written Statement: House Hearing, Feb. 8, 2022

<p>Presenter: James Johnson, Executive Committee members, Pure Integrity for Michigan Elections</p> <p>https://pureintegritymichiganelections.org, purintegrityforme@gmail.com</p> <p>In support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eaton County Republican Women’s Alliance • Michigan Citizens for Election Integrity 	<p>Before the Michigan House Standing Committee on Elections and Ethics, Representative Ann Bollin, Chair</p> <p>Tuesday, Feb. 8, 2022, 12:00 p.m., Room 326, House Office Building, Lansing, MI</p> <p>Committee Clerk: Sondra Gordon Phone: (517) 373-0910 e-Mail: sgordon@house.mi.gov</p>
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Pure Integrity for Michigan Elections is a grassroots group composed of more than 530 supporters across the state with concentrations in Ingham, Jackson, Eaton, Clinton, and Washtenaw counties. In order to achieve its mission, to help restore election integrity to Michigan elections, PIME analyzes current election bills and laws with an eye toward closing gaps and opportunities for abuse by those who would undermine free and fair elections. We appreciate our legislators’ hard work and seek to work alongside them to achieve maximum transparency, checks and balances, ethics, and integrity in election law. PIME is a peaceful, issue-based, nonpartisan political movement. We welcome all who support election integrity and the US and Michigan Constitutions.

Agenda:

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| HB 4163 (Rep. Berman) | Campaign finance; advertising; address requirement on campaign material; remove. |
| HB 4967 (Rep. Paquette) | Elections; ballots; security features on election ballots; require. |
| HB 5335 (Rep. Damoose) | Elections; challengers; requirements for election challengers; provide for. |
| HB 5614 (Rep. VanWoerkom) | Campaign finance; contributions and expenditures; provision related to officeholders raising funds when facing a recall; modify, and define an active recall as a recall in which the board of canvassers has approved that sufficient signatures have been collected. |

1. **HB 4163.** Rep. Berman. Campaign finance; advertising; address requirement on campaign material; remove.

Position: Support.

2. **HB 4967.** Rep. Paquette. Elections; ballots; security features on election ballots; require.

PIME Position: Support with recommendations.

- A. It seems it would be better for the proposal to identify the specific security measures that are required. For instance, “microprinting” and “colored ink” are undefined. The ballots are already printed with stubs that have colored ink, and some might already consider the fonts used to be too small. The point is that existing ballots without any changes may be argued to already satisfy the proposed changes.
 - B. Return envelope security is of equal importance. Even Chris Thomas, Michigan’s former longtime elections director made mention of absentee ballot return envelopes that were taped shut when received at the clerk’s office. How can anyone know for sure the ballot in such envelopes represented the will of the one qualified voter who was originally issued that specific ballot?
 - C. There should be an explicit statement that an election official is prohibited from accepting any ballot or envelope for which the security provisions have been bypassed, mutilated, or appear counterfeit. This would make it a criminal offense (i.e., misdemeanor) for an election official to accept non-genuine or compromised election returns.
3. **HB 5335** (Rep. Damoose) Elections; challengers; requirements for election challengers; provide for.

PIME supports this bill and recommends one amendment. We support the idea that challengers must be trained, identifiable, and protected from harassment. Documentation of their challenges must be noted in the pollbook in order to preserve a record of events. We suggest one amendment to improve this bill further:

Recommended amendment:

(4) If a challenge is made by a challenger, an election inspector must enter that challenge in the poll book and include how the challenge was resolved. If a challenge was rejected, an election inspector must note in the poll book why the challenge was rejected. If an election inspector fails to or refuses to enter a challenge into the poll book, the inspector will be subject to a fine of \$1,000 for each unentered challenge.

4. **HB 5614** Rep. VanWoerkom. Campaign finance; contributions and expenditures; provision related to officeholders raising funds when facing a recall; modify, and define an active recall as a recall in which the board of canvassers has approved that sufficient signatures have been collected.

Position: Support with amendment.

Recommended amendment: We do not understand the rationale for exempting the recall candidate from serving as the treasurer of their own recall committee. On the surface, it appears the recall candidate should be subject to the same rules as other candidates.

Respectfully submitted,

Patrice Johnson, Chair, Pure Integrity for Michigan Elections	Andrea Smith, President, Eaton County Republican Women’s Alliance	Rebecca Behrends, MD VP Research, Secretary Michigan Citizens for Election Integrity
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