

Dear Committee Clerk Wingrove,

I wish to submit comment in opposition to SB 242 and SB 245.

I believe residents of Michigan will be better served by leaving county board of commissioner terms at the current 2-year terms. County commissioners function within the legislative branch of government the same as members of Congress at our federal level and Representatives at our state level. Our congressional and state representatives also serve 2-year terms. I often hear county commissioners should serve 4-year terms similar to county clerks, prosecutors, sheriffs, drain commissioners, treasurers, and the register of deeds. However, these countywide elected officials serve within the executive branch of government rather than the legislative branch.

In addition, I have concerns with the impact of redistricting on county commissioner districts if a change is made to 4-year terms. As you know the county apportionment commission is tasked with redrawing county commissioner districts following the release of official results by the U.S. Census Bureau every 10 years. This process works well with the current 2-year terms but will be confusing and complicated if county commission terms move to 4-year terms. I respectfully request your consideration of the complications to the redistricting process that will arise if legislation is passed moving county commissioners to 4-year terms. Legislators should keep the best interests of the residents of Michigan in mind when making this decision rather than what is easier for county commissioners.

I appreciate the opportunity to share my comments and concerns.

Sincerely,

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