

House Committee on Elections and Ethics Meeting Wednesday, October 16, 10:30 A.M.

Good morning Madame Chair, Vice-Chair and fellow Representatives,

My name is Ann Bollin. I serve as the Representative for Michigan's 42<sup>nd</sup> district and prior to becoming State Representative, I served as the Clerk for the Charter Township of Brighton for 16 years. I am here to speak on HB's 5031 and 5032. These bills, if passed into law, will assist local clerks in their statutory duty of administering elections.

HB 5031 would expand the definition of polling locations to include certain privately-owned venues. Schools and churches are increasingly reluctant to open their doors to the public on election day. This bill addresses this problem by allowing certain privately-owned buildings to be used as polling locations, so long as the building owner isn't a sponsor of a political or independent committee.

House Bill 5032 would increase the precinct size to 5000 registered voters, allow for the consolidation of precincts in any election other than a November General Election, and require local clerks to maintain a permanent absentee voter application list.

Increasing precinct sizes and allowing for the consolidation of precinct locations in non-general election years will free up election workers, voting machines, and other supplies and materials. Clerks will have greater flexibility to allocate resources to meet their unique demands and allow for the greater utilization of absentee counting boards, which in my opinion, lead to greater integrity in the administration of elections.

I would also note that Section 168.660 and 168.661 of Michigan's election law outline the timeframes which have to be followed for the alteration or rearrangement of precincts and do not allow for these changes within approximately 180 to 210 days prior to the primary next preceding the general November election.

Furthermore, HB 5032 also requires local clerks to maintain a permanent absentee voter application list. This will assist with voter confidence since the passage of Proposal 3 and No Reason AV.

These bills were drafted in concert with a work group I initiated comprised of local clerks, county clerks and representatives from the Bureau of Elections.

As a former clerk, I encourage the passage of these bills out of committee and believe they will add to the integrity and efficiency of election administration at the local level.

Thank you again for the opportunity to address the committee and I am happy to answer any questions you may have.