

March 6, 2023

Committee on Elections and Ethics
Michigan Senate
P.O. Box 30036
Lansing, Michigan 48909-7536

Committee on Elections and the Michigan House of Representatives and the Michigan P.O. Box 30014

Lansing, Michigan 48909-7514

Dear Chairman Moss, Minority Vice Chairwoman Johnson, Chairwoman Tsernoglou, Minority Vice Chairman Markkanen and honorable members:

As an elected township clerk, I write about the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact. This important bipartisan election reform bill is expected to come before your respective committees during this session of the Legislature.

Clerks are on the front lines of elections. In fact, our (small-'r') republican form of government at the federal and state levels only exists because we administer and conduct elections for every level.

Having extensively reviewed the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact, I can say that it does *not* abolish the Electoral College; does *not* change or impact any other federal, state, or local election law; and does *not* require any extra steps, new machinery or apparatuses, or increased funding to be implemented.

Instead, the legislation uses the Michigan Legislature's plenary power under the U.S. Constitution to award Michigan's electors to the presidential candidate with the most votes. Clerks will continue to administer and conduct elections, count the votes from existing precincts, and report the results to the secretary of State. As the state's chief election official, the secretary applies the legislation of the compact by certifying the slate of electors from the party of the winning candidate.

I hope the partisan politics and hyperpolarization that otherwise dominates today's body politic will not interfere with passage of this and other needed election reforms.

The National Popular Vote Interstate Compact is an example of how Democrats and Republicans can come together to ensure that the vote of all Michiganders is *equal* and *relevant* in *every* presidential election.

Respectfully yours,

The Honorable Kim Meltzer
Clerk, Charter Township of Clinton
Former Member, Michigan House of
Representatives

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cc: Members of the Legislature