

March 7th, 2023 Elections Committee hearing, testimony on HB4127-28, HB4156:

4127: gun free zone – polling locations, early voting locations, ballot drop boxes

4128: gun free zone – absentee ballot counting boards

4156: enters Michigan into an agreement among states to elect the President by National popular vote instead of the Electoral College

My name is Sheree Ritchie and I am a lifelong Michigan resident. I'd like to thank the Committee for hearing testimony from the citizens of the state.

This statement, submitted by Pure Integrity for Michigan Elections, known as PIME, comes with the support of Stand Up Michigan, Michigan Fair Elections, and the Freedom Alliance Project. PIME is a peaceful, issue-based, nonpartisan political movement. We welcome all who support election integrity and the U.S. and Michigan Constitutions.

I am here today to speak in opposition to House Bills 4127, 4128 and 4156.

PIME testified last week on HB4127 & 4128, but I would like to reiterate two points:

1. 96% of Mass Shootings occur in gun free zones (crimeresearch.org, [crimeresearch.org-mass-shootings in gun free zones](http://crimeresearch.org-mass-shootings-in-gun-free-zones)). We should be eliminating gun free zones, not expanding them. Also,
2. Several studies have been performed that show that **Concealed Pistol Carriers reduce crime rates**, and this is why PIME has requested, at the very least, an amendment to exclude CPL holders from the prohibitions imposed by House Bills 4127 & 4128. We have included references to 3 such studies in our written statement. I won't read through all of these, but they are there for your reference.
 - A 2013 survey of 130 researchers (80 criminologists and 50 economists) by John Lott & Criminologist Gary Mauser showed CPL (Concealed Pistol License) holders are much more law-abiding than the typical American and that allowing CPL holders to carry their firearms results in lower murder rates.
 - A research study performed by David Mustard at the University of Georgia found that concealed handgun permits tend to lead to fewer police deaths.
 - "The Impact of Law and Economics (October 2001): 635-657
 - Another study published in the October 2001 *Journal of Law Economics* found that letting law abiding citizens carry guns reduces the rate that criminals carry guns, thus making it safer for police and civilians alike.

House Bill 4156, to enter Michigan into a compact with other states to abolish the electoral college and vote instead for the President by way of National Popular vote. This means that **Michigan's voters will be completely ignored** if they don't happen to fall in line with the East and West coast sentiments for the president as 51% of the country. Even if 100% of Michigan voters voted for a president that doesn't win the National Popular vote, then 100% of Michigan's votes will be given to a candidate that no one in Michigan voted for. How will this sit with Michigan voters? And how can you then tell them that their vote counts? This is antithetical to a republic, consisting of representative government.

Did you know that the city of Los Angeles has almost as many people (8.8 million) as the entire state of Michigan (~10 million)? It's well known that majorities of populations of states reside in the larger cities within the states. Electing a president by National Popular Vote would ensure that candidates focus not only their campaigning, but also their actions in office only to support people living in larger municipalities. How will people in rural or smaller cities ever have the attention or resources they deserve and need?

This bill looks to undo the sovereignty of the state of Michigan by ignoring its voters and selecting instead someone as president that the large cities in the country would choose. Please tell Michigan voters that their votes DO matter. Do NOT bring this bill up for a vote in the House.

Sheree Ritchie
PIME member