



Written Statement: House Hearing, June 13th, 2023

<p>Bill Richardson, Pure Integrity for Michigan Elections, Legislative Committee Chair</p> <p>https://www.pureintegritymichiganelections.org/ purintegrityforme@gmail.com</p> <p>In support of this statement: Freedom Alliance Project, Stand Up Michigan, and Michigan Fair Elections</p>	<p>Before the Michigan House Standing Committee on Elections, Representative Tsernoglou, Chair</p> <p>Tuesday, June 13th, 2023, 10:30 AM, Room 327, House Office Building, Lansing, MI</p> <p>Committee Clerk: Edward Sleeper Phone: (517) 373-2002 e-Mail: esleeper@house.mi.gov</p>
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This statement, submitted by Pure Integrity for Michigan Elections, comes with the support of the Freedom Alliance Project, Stand Up Michigan, and Michigan Fair Elections. PIME is an issue-based, nonpartisan political movement. We welcome all who support election integrity and the US and Michigan Constitutions.

AGENDA:

HB 4695
 (Rep. Tsernoglou)

Elections; voting procedures; early voting procedures; provide for and clarify.

PIME POSITION: OPPOSE as written.

PIME understands legislation must be written to enact Proposal 2. However, we have many concerns with the current language in this bill. Here are some examples:

1. There is no language to protect minority groups, who have a much lower turnout when they are forced to drive further to the polls. A study published by houstonpublicmedia.org determined that a one mile increase in a drive to the polls reduced voter turnout for people of color by 19%, while only reducing white voter turnout by 5%. Language to protect voters from long drives was in early drafts of the bill, but has been removed.
2. Too much authority is being given to a partisan office, namely the SOS office.
 - PIME has proposed a bi-partisan committee be established made up of legislators and clerks to design and develop systems required by the early voting amendment.
 - Our constitution requires the legislature determine the “time, place, and manner” of the elections, not the SOS.

3. Current drafts allow “print on demand” ballots. The very same type of ballots that caused major voter suppression in AZ in last year’s presidential election.
4. Current drafts allow different ballot types to be tabulated in the same tabulator. This does not promote confidence in our election process and would make recounts very difficult for canvassers. PIME supports one tabulator per ballot type.
5. Allows up to 29 days for early voting! The 9 days allowed in Proposal 2 is plenty. Extending this to a voting ‘month’ or ‘season’ only works to defeat voter’s confidence in election results and is a waste of taxpayer dollars.
6. Current draft allow for daily updates to e-poll books and the QVF. There are obvious concerns with tracking who has voted and who is registered when the list is changing daily across the state. The process should remain as it has always been, with a final QVF loaded into the e-poll book at the beginning of the election process and not changing until the election is over.

HB 4696
(Rep.
Tsernoglou)

Criminal procedure; sentencing guidelines; sentencing guidelines for certain early voting violations under the Michigan election law; provide for.

PIME POSITION: SUPPORT.

HB 4697
(Rep.
Kolezar)

Elections; absent voter ballot drop boxes; requirements for absent voter ballot drop boxes; modify.

PIME POSITION: OPPOSE as written.

Again, PIME understands that Proposal 2 requires a ballot drop box for every 15,000 voters. However, as with HB4695, we have many concerns with the bill’s current language. Here are some examples:

1. Providing more drop boxes than one for each 15,000 voters would only add cost to the taxpayers (for req’d monitoring) and would only raise concerns about voter fraud and fraudulent ballots.
2. Ballot drop boxes should NOT be equipped with mailbox style levers. There is no reason for this since ballot harvesting is not allowed in Michigan. All ballot drop boxes should be equipped with a slot no larger than necessary to accept a single ballot.
3. Video monitoring requirement is struck and the phrase “may use video monitoring...to ensure effective monitoring of drop boxes”.

We need video monitoring to instill confidence in our elections.

- Furthermore, PIME believes that livestream of video surveillance should be made available for public viewing. This would bolster confidence in the election process.

4. In section 761.d(14)(b), why is “*The total number of absent voter ballot return envelopes collected from the absent voter ballot drop box*” struck from the requirements list of what the clerk must keep records on. This should be re-instated, again, to make voters confident in the election process and absentee ballot submission.

HB 4698
(Rep. Hope)

Elections; voters; definition of identification for election purposes; expand.

PIME POSITION: OPPOSE

Introducing the “educational institution” definition to include any accrediting institution lowers the standard for ID requirements. **72% of Michigan voters support voter ID laws.** Any ID that doesn’t contain at least the information required on the “application to vote” at the polls should not be allowed as a voting ID. Section (g) should be removed and the old section k(ix) should be un-struck.

<https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/news/michigan-voters-support-voter-id-58-percent-black-voters>

HB 4699
(Rep. Byrnes)

Elections; absent voters; provisions regarding permanent mail ballot voters; implement, and modify certain election material retention periods.

PIME POSITION: OPPOSE as written.

Once again PIME understands the requirements of Proposal 2, but this bill goes too far. We have the following concerns with this bill:

1. Sec 759g - **This section is too vague and again puts too much authority in control of a partisan office (SOS).** Specifics should be laid out in the bill, like how and when the discontinuation list will be managed and when the discontinuation will happen.
2. **6 years is too long to continue to send absentee ballots to someone who has not voted.** This should not be more than 2 years (~6 elections). (Sec 7593.3.d). Having unused ballots floating around in the public for 6 years does not promote confidence in election results.
 - This is also a waste of taxpayer dollars.

HB 4700 (Rep
Rheingans)

Elections; absent voters; signature matching and curing for absent voter ballot applications and absent voter ballot return envelopes; provide for, and provide for modifications to the absent voter ballot application and process.

PIME POSITION: OPPOSE as written.

PIME has many concerns with this bill as written:

1. You seem to be waiving the signature requirement for an AVB application by allowing it to happen online (sec 759(1))
2. The bill would allow a voter to ‘cure’ a ballot that has been rejected and have it counted in the election up until 5:00 pm on the **3rd day**

AFTER THE ELECTION. [new section 761(3)]. We simply cannot keep extending the time frame of accepting ballots past election day. This does not bolster confidence in our election results.

3. Electronic signatures would be allowed not only on the absentee ballot application, but also on any required ‘cure’ forms. This seems terribly easy to ‘hack’.
4. “The SOS may issue instructions to clerks to provide electors with other options, **other than by providing a signature.**” [sec 766a(6)]
 - This is another effort to avoid signature verification and more control being put into a partisan office (SOS).
5. The workload being added to the clerks in this bill is astonishing and much of it is not necessary. There is a lot of ‘talk’ about helping the clerks do their job, but the ‘actions’ required in this bill and others prove the opposite is happening.

HB 4702 (Rep Tsernoglou) Elections; other; precinct size; increase.

PIME POSITION: OPPOSE

This bill has nothing to do with Proposal 2 and was in fact also introduced last year (and PIME opposed it then). PIME has the following comments on this bill:

1. Precinct size should not be raised. If anything it should be lowered. **If you’ve ever worked an election**, you know that if you actually had to process 2999 voters in person, the line would be hours long all day long. There is no reason to increase the precinct size and this only has the potential to over stress election workers who we know are already in short supply. Processing even 1/3 of this number of people (1000 voters) in a day would result in 1–2 hour voting lines all day long, especially given the ‘last minute’ provisions that are being allowed, forcing election workers to process same day paperwork and voter ID ‘affidavits’ for people who don’t produce IDs and/or register same day. We also don’t believe that clerks want this when you see many clerks choosing to reduce precinct size to less than 1000 voters.
2. Oversight on the number of voting machines is being removed.
3. This move has the potential to create longer lines at the polls and discourage people from voting (i.e. voter suppression).

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Richardson, Chair, Legislative Committee Pure Integrity Michigan Elections	Allies: Stand Up Michigan Freedom Alliance Project Michigan Fair Elections
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