

OCCA

Oakland County Clerks Association

June 3, 2021

Honorable Ann Bollin and Standing Committee on Elections and Ethics:

On behalf of the Oakland County Clerk's Association (OCCA), the OCCA Legislative Committee takes the following positions on legislation being discussed at today's hearing:

HB 4897. We strongly oppose HB 4897 . In addition to concerns about not having the space required to accommodate the increased amount of allowed challengers along with the required number of election workers needed, the increased number of permitted challengers will outnumber absentee counting board workers and lead to a chaotic situation and a guaranteed a slowdown of vote tabulation on Election Day, Clerks cannot allow random members of the public, whether they're challengers or otherwise, access to the confidential materials housed within Clerks' Offices. In addition to issuing ballots on those days, we also have birth certificates, legal documents, personal information for voters and residents all openly available to staff that work in the department. Further, offices house computers with access to municipal networks that can be tampered with, election equipment, EPBs, etc. It would be too easy for a challenger to gain access to confidential material while in the office especially since staff will be so busy and focused on work instead of babysitting a challenger. If any of you observed the Clerk's office on the weeks leading up to the November presidential election, the practicality and necessity of this legislation would be in serious question.

Please read this position into the record and provide a copy of to each committee member. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions or need further information.

Sincerely,

Cheryl E. Rottmann

Cheryl E. Rottmann, CMC
President, Oakland County Clerks Association
Oakland County Clerks Association Legislative Committee Liaison
Madison Heights City Clerk