

ERRATA:

Unfortunately, some errors on the original page 6 in our September **Voter** slipped through. This page has the corrected information for the ACTION ALERT article by Joanna Mitchell and should be considered a replacement for that article in the original version of the September 2020 **Voter**. Thanks and our apologies. Marge Forslin, Editor



In Honor of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, join the fight to remove the ratification deadline on the Equal Rights Amendment.

[Contact your Senators now](#)

ACTION ALERT

Absentee Votes— Make them Count in Michigan

By Joanna Mitchell, Director of Advocacy

On September 14, you received a Michigan action alert from LWVMI (shown in the column to the right.) **Three of the four measures have been enacted!**

On September 15, SB 757 passed, enabling 72 communities in Michigan with a population over 25,000, to begin processing absentee ballots for the upcoming general election one day early on November 2. (Counting ballots is permitted only on Election Day, November 3.)

Provisions in 2 of the remaining bills were incorporated into SB 757 allowing workers on Absentee Vote Counting Boards to work in shifts and requiring clerks to contact voters if their signature on the ballot's outside envelope does not match the signature on file. Another added measure requires video monitoring of new drop boxes.

HB 5987 remains in the House Committee on Elections and Ethics. In a related ruling on Friday, September 18, Michigan Court of Claims Judge Cynthia Stephens ruled that absentee ballots postmarked as late as November 2 and received within 14 days must be counted.

Below is the September 14, 2020 email message sent from the League of Women Voters of Michigan (LWVMI) to all members:

Take Action -

**Tell the MI Senators and Representatives
"Make Sure Everyone's Vote Counts!"**

The Legislature can improve the election process in Michigan by passing these bills:

- 1) **Senate Bill 756** - allows poll workers on Absentee Ballot Counting Board to work in shifts.
- 2) **Senate Bill 757** - allows election officials to begin processing Absentee Ballots before Election Day.
- 3) **House Bill 5987** - requires ballots be counted if they are postmarked by Election Day and received within the following 48 hours.
- 4) **House Bill 5991** - requires clerks to contact voters if their signature on their absentee ballot doesn't match the signature on file so voters can fix the problem.

Take action now by sending an email to express your support for these changes to your members of the MI House of Representatives and the MI Senate.

*In League,
Christina Schlitt, President*