



RESOLUTION supporting the cause of protecting democracy, promoting policies that protect access to the ballot for voters and building on the progress of the 2020 elections.

WHEREAS, access to voting and participation in free, fair and secure elections is fundamental to our system of governance; and

WHEREAS, Michigan voters overwhelmingly supported amending the constitution to expand voting rights, make it easier to register and easier to vote: 68% of voters in Marquette County and 67% of voters in Michigan voted Yes on Proposition 3 in 2018; and

WHEREAS, restricting voting rights and undermining the fair, nonpartisan administration of elections is harmful to all communities, but disproportionately impacts (already marginalized) voters of color, lower-income communities, the elderly, as well as disabled voters; and

WHEREAS, in recent months, state legislatures, including Michigan's, have introduced dozens of bills that essentially restrict access to voting, make election administration and oversight less equitable and efficient, and undermine existing laws that maintain election security and ensure nonpartisan counting and certification of votes; and

WHEREAS, Michigan's established voter photo ID/affidavit requirement has proven effective and secure for 25 years and in the 2020 election only 11,400 Michiganders without ID (0.2 percent of voters) signed an affidavit under penalty of perjury to vote in person; and

WHEREAS, elections in Michigan have been conducted safely and securely and without any significant fraud, up to and including the 2020 election, as the Senate Oversight Committee Report concluded; and

WHEREAS, in 2021, the Secretary of State unveiled a legislative agenda that would improve access to voting whether early, absentee, or in-person; expedite absentee ballot processing; and make voting more convenient;

Now, therefore, be it RESOLVED that the League of Women Voters of Marquette County on this 11th day of November, 2021, strongly supports policies that **expand and protect equitable access to voting and that strengthen and sustain a robust election infrastructure**, including both material and human resources:

- Make Election Day a state holiday to facilitate voting and make it easier for citizens to serve as election workers;
- Allow overseas service members and spouses to return their ballots electronically;
- Earmark sufficient funding for elections to recruit, train and retain needed election workers, to add sufficient election equipment such as secure drop boxes and tabulators, and to support voters with disabilities;
- Allow the processing of absentee ballots starting one week prior to Election Day;
- Authorize clerks to mail absentee ballot applications to all registered voters in every election cycle;
- Mandate the same training standards for election workers and election challengers;
- Establish early in-person voting; and
- Require a statewide risk-limiting audit of election results prior to state certification.

The League of Women Voters of Marquette County supports these immediate and long-term measures with the goals of preserving democracy, ensuring access to voting, and continuing to promote the integrity, security, and fairness of all elections throughout the State of Michigan; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the League of Women Voters of Marquette County strongly opposes all legislation or other efforts that would restrict access to the ballot, undermine the nonpartisan, fair and efficient administration of elections; and restrict voting rights.