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League of Women Voters of Michigan argues new data should reopen absentee deadline case

League asks Michigan Supreme Court to reconsider hearing the case, prevent disenfranchisement of voters

LANSING – The League of Women Voters of Michigan today announced it has asked the Michigan Supreme Court to reconsider hearing its case on the absentee voting deadline ahead of the November election.

Data on late received ballots in the August primary and a letter from the United States Postal Service (USPS) to the Secretary of State showed any ballot mailed by a voter in the seven days prior to the election was at risk of not being counted.

According to the Secretary of State, more than 6,400 ballots were turned away in the August election because they arrived after Election Day.

The USPS's letter warns that to ensure absentee votes are counted in November, Michigan voters will need to send their ballot applications more than two weeks before Election Day, and then send their completed ballots at least one week before Election Day, even though the Michigan Constitution gives all voters the right to request and submit by mail absentee ballots until Election Day.

The letter confirms Michigan's statutory received-by deadline, combined with USPS's delivery standards, violates the guaranteed 40-day window for voting by mail – a window Michigan voters enacted overwhelmingly in 2018.

“This new information reinforces the importance of what we originally asked for –allowing absentee votes to be counted if they are postmarked by Election Day,” said **Christina Schlitt**, president of the League of Women Voters of Michigan. “The Court’s decision could help prevent the disenfranchisement of thousands of voters in the November election and ensure voting is accessible and convenient for every registered voter in Michigan in November and beyond.”

The League's original lawsuit against the Secretary of State was filed with the Court of Appeals in May and intended to ensure the full enforcement of Proposal 3, which voters overwhelmingly approved in 2018. The Michigan Supreme Court declined to hear the case on July 31.

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The League of Women Voters of Michigan is the state league for the U.S. League of Women Voters, which is a nonpartisan political organization that aims to encourage informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Learn more at lwvmi.org.