



February 15, 2021

Dear Members of the House Elections and Ethics Committee:

The League of Women Voters of Michigan opposes passage of HBs 4132, 4133, and 4134 that are currently under consideration by the MI House Elections and Ethics Committee.

HBs 4132 and 4133 would make it a felony for providing false information or forging a signature on an absentee ballot request form. Currently the law makes these actions a misdemeanor. LWVMI does not support increasing the penalty because it could intimidate voters from applying for an absentee ballot. There is no reason for this change.

HB 4134 would amend the MI Election Law to increase the maximum number of electors allowed in a precinct from 2,999 to 5,000 beginning in 2022. LWVMI opposes this change because it could mean longer delays for voting on election day and confusion for voters on the location of their polling place. While we know the use of absentee ballots increased in the 2020 election during the pandemic, we do not have enough data to know if decreasing voting precincts is merited in the future.

The League of Women Voters works to protect the right of all citizens to vote and to encourage all citizens to vote. The League also supports electoral systems at each level of government that encourage participation, are verifiable and auditable, and enhance representation for all voters.

We oppose passage of HBs 4132, 4133 and 4134. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Christina Schlitt".

Christina Schlitt
President