



May 19, 2021

The League of Women Voters of Michigan opposes, SBs 275, 276, 288, 296, 297, 298, and 299 as introduced and are on the agenda today. These bills do little to ensure the rights of the voter and increase voter participation.

Today we want to highlight our concerns about four bills:

- 1) SB 275 would allow challengers from each party to video record the audit process at the precincts selected for the audit. This recording could violate the right to a secret ballot and be used for intimidation and harassment of workers.
- 2) SB 276 would allow election inspectors, poll challengers and observers to record the tabulation of ballots at any precinct or absentee counting board. This recording also could violate the right to a secret ballot and be used for intimidation and harassment of workers.
- 3) SB 288 would require the clerk to appoint inspectors from each party six days before the audit to conduct each audit. Each political party can appoint two challengers to observe audits and requires the Secretary of State to provide live video streaming of every precinct audit. This seems to serve no purpose except to serve again as intimidation and harassment and increases costs for the department.
- 4) SB 296 would increase the size of the Board of Canvassers based on the population of county. We would double in some counties from 4 to 8 members. This allows for increased partisanship and divided outcomes.

We urge you to oppose this legislation because the bills would increase partisanship and harassment in the election process without assuring the accuracy, transparency or fairness of the election process.

Christina Schliit
President