



March 13, 2024

**Testimony Before the Senate Elections Committee**

Thank you Chair Moss and members of the committee for the opportunity to present testimony on behalf of the League of Women Voters of Michigan. I am Paula Bowman, Co-President of the League. The League supports SB 603 and SB 604.

As you may know, the League of Women Voters has been monitoring the election process for many years. For the past 4 years, our members have also been observing the county boards of canvassers during the post-election canvasses. We have just completed monitoring the meetings that certified the results of the presidential primary. In 2022, we also monitored the process that went on in some counties to recount the votes of Proposal 2 and Proposal 3.

This legislation would greatly reduce the confusion we saw during the recount in December 2022 in selected precincts on Proposals 2 and 3. Some of the people who were watching the recount had grandiose expectations about investigating election procedures and challenging ballots during that process to change the outcome of the election. They argued over what documents could be reviewed. There was confusion about the role of the observers. This legislation makes clear that a recount is an administrative process, not an investigation or an audit. It also clarifies the documents used in the recount and the responsibilities of all parties.

SB 603 also makes clear when an automatic recount will take place and ensures that if a recount is to occur, enough precincts are being reviewed to assure that it could make a difference in the outcome of the election.

LWVMI believes Michigan's elections are fair, accurate and secure. But we also know there is much mis and disinformation about the process. These bills will strengthen and clarify the recount process so everyone is informed about the process throughout the state. The League of Women Voters of Michigan strongly supports these bills.