

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

News from Michigan Election Protection Organizations

October 31, 2024

Contact: Denzel McCampbell, denzel@engagemichigan.org

Please reach out to Denzel McCampbell for a recording of the press conference

Election Officials, Voter Protection Groups Share Accurate Information About MI Elections, Prepare for Election Day

Civic education and engagement remain top priorities

MICHIGAN - On Thursday, a coalition of election protection organizations, alongside Genesee County Clerk and Register of Deeds Domonique Clemons highlighted how election officials have been preparing for early voting, Election Day, and the canvass and certification process by providing straightforward, fact-based information about election processes, and emphasizing the importance of ensuring every voter is able to cast their ballot.

The event included community members and speakers from Promote the Vote, ACLU of Michigan, Detroit Disability Power, the League of Women Voters of Michigan, and Michigan League of Conservation Voters Education Fund. Representatives for the election protection groups also shared ways that they are hard at work to ensure all voters are aware of their voting rights and that all eligible voters can cast a ballot free from intimidation and interference.

“Election Day is just under one week away, but voting in Michigan is well under way. In fact, as of this Wednesday, almost one third of active registered voters had already cast their ballot through absentee or early voting,” said **Shira Roza, election protection director at Promote the Vote**. “Thanks to Proposal 3 of 2018 and Proposal 2 of 2022, both of which were spearheaded by Promote the Vote, voters now have more opportunities for registration and more options for voting than ever before.”

With early in-person and no-reason absentee voting being an option for Michiganders, along with same-day registration now available up to and including on Election Day, Genesee County Clerk and Register of Deeds Domonique Clemons shared how his office and local clerks are working to deliver a secure and accurate election that is accessible to voters.

“My office and clerks across the county and the state of Michigan are working hard to deliver a safe and accurate election for voters – and there are many ways that we are doing this,” **said Genessee County Clerk and Register of Deeds Domonique Clemons.** “Our staff, including the many election workers that come right from our communities, have been training consistently to make sure we are fully prepared. It is important for folks to understand this process to build even more faith in our system than voters already have.”

Organizations across the state, including the ACLU of Michigan, work with clerks and election officials to support the election system and make sure election laws and policies are being followed.

“We are incredibly proud of the relationships we, along with our coalition partners, have cultivated with city, township, and county clerks across the state to ensure they have the support and resources they need to implement new voting rights laws and run secure and fair elections, said **Loren Khogali, ACLU of Michigan executive director.** “Building mutual trust with the hardworking people administering our elections has made it possible to address issues as they arise, combat disinformation, clear barriers to the ballot box, and ensure every vote cast is counted.”

More than 25 percent of Michiganders are people with disabilities, so it is essential that voters know about their rights when it comes to elections and casting their ballot. Detroit Disability Power has developed [resources](#) to educate voters on those rights and discussed them during the press conference.

“We know that we can only work toward a true democracy if voting is accessible for all, especially voters with disabilities,” **said Dessa Cosma, executive director of Detroit Disability Power.** “That’s why at DDP we’ve collected data and worked with clerks to make sure polling locations, voting information, and voting equipment are accessible. It is important for all voters to be aware of their rights and ways to access our democracy.”

Speakers also discussed the role of the Boards of Canvassers throughout the state. Every one of Michigan’s 83 counties has a Board of County Canvassers made up of two Democrats and two Republicans. Local Democratic and Republican parties submit lists of candidates to the County Board of Commissioners, who appoint canvassers to serve staggered four-year terms. After an election it’s the Board of County Canvasser’s job to ensure paperwork from each precinct and absentee voting counting board (AVCB) in the county is filled out correctly. They do not investigate allegations of fraud or misconduct, or call for audits or recounts.

“The job of the Boards of County Canvassers is to double check math and ensure forms are filled out correctly, not investigate or question our votes,” **said Paula Bowman, co-president of the League of Women Voters of Michigan.** “So at the League our members are working to make sure that Boards across the state are doing just that.”

The overall tone and message of the event was to convey that elections in Michigan are accessible, secure, and accurate. With five days left of voting, speakers stressed the importance of engagement in every community.

“The increased access to the ballot box that Michiganders voted to approve in 2018 and 2022 provide essential ways for voters to engage in our democracy,” **said Pastor Velma Jean Overman, executive director of Operation Refuge and First Vice President of the Western Wayne NAACP.** “Many of our community members are working to support our local clerks and their election officials, many are volunteering to register people to vote, and many are ensuring that voters know their rights when it comes to casting their ballot.”

For accurate and complete information on the various ways Michiganders can vote and Michigan’s election system, please visit www.michiganvoting.org. Voters can also get accurate information about their voting rights and can report incidents of voter suppression by calling the non-partisan election protection hotline at (866) OUR-VOTE (866-687-8683).

###