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News from Promote The Vote

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Press Call Highlights New Michigan Election Laws and Their Impact on Voters

MICHIGAN - Today, Promote The Vote, a coalition dedicated to protecting and expanding voting rights in Michigan, held a virtual media briefing to discuss key election-related laws taking effect this year and their impact on voters and election administration.

“We are committed to ensuring Michigan’s elections remain accessible, secure, and free from interference, partisan or otherwise” said Micheal Davis, Jr., **executive director at Promote The Vote**. “With anti-voter groups attempting to roll back recent election reforms, our coalition will continue to fight for fair and transparent elections that reflect the will of Michigan voters.”

[Several new laws](#) will take effect starting April 2, strengthening voter registration, election security, and administrative efficiency. **Melanie Macey, director of policy and government affairs at Promote The Vote** detailed the upcoming changes:

- **Expanded online voter registration** - Michiganders can register online using the last four digits of their social security number, starting in July.
- **Firearm ban at polling places** - a new law enhances voter safety by prohibiting firearms at polling places and other voting-related locations.
- **Election administration enhancements** - changes to recount rules, expansion of ballot-on-demand printing, and new eligibility requirements for canvassers will improve efficiency and security.
- **Secure automatic voter registration** - eligible individuals interacting with the Secretary of State or other newly-designated state agencies will automatically be registered to vote

One major change in recount procedures was highlighted by **Paula Bowman, co-president of the League of Women Voters of Michigan**. Moving forward, recounts will only be allowed if they have the potential to change the outcome of an election, preventing costly and unnecessary recounts that burden election officials and taxpayers.

“This is a step forward in protecting our free and fair elections from those who continue to spread disinformation and baseless conspiracy theories in an attempt to undermine confidence in our elections for their own political and personal gain,” **Bowman** said.

Speakers also emphasized how expanded use of ballot-on-demand printing will improve accessibility for voters who need translated ballots. Now, instead of shuffling through stacks of printed translated ballots, election workers can print them on demand, ensuring every voter receives the correct ballot without delay. This also reduces the risk of errors or missing ballots for certain precincts. Clerks no longer need to estimate how many translated ballots to print, reducing waste and logistical challenges.

“This change ensures that language access remains a priority in Michigan’s elections, allowing voters to confidently cast their ballots. It also allows more cities to take the first step toward offering translated ballots— ensuring that every eligible voter can cast a ballot in the language they understand best,” said **Shams Al-Badry, civic engagement manager at ACCESS**. “By modernizing ballot access, Michigan is making it easier for clerks to ensure that all their voters—regardless of language—can participate fully in our democracy.”

[Promote The Vote](#) remains committed to advocating for policies that remove barriers to voting and safeguard Michigan’s elections. **A recording of this morning’s press call can be found by [clicking here](#).**

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