



PRESS RELEASE

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CONTACT

info@securemivote.org
Secure MI Vote

Former Secretaries of State Oppose Proposal 2

Lansing, MI – Three former Michigan Secretaries of State today announced their joint opposition to Proposal 2. Candice Miller, Terri Lynn Land, and Ruth Johnson served as the state’s chief election official for a combined 24 years prior to current Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson and said Monday that Proposal 2 would hurt election integrity and increase the chances for fraud in the state’s elections.

“This is a dangerous proposal,” said Johnson, R-Holly, who served most recently as secretary of state and is now a state senator and chair of the Senate Elections Committee. “Proposal 2 would prohibit us from ever requiring photo-ID to vote in Michigan.”

A [statewide poll](#) from the Detroit Regional Chamber and the Glengariff Group in May 2021 showed that 79.7% of Michigan registered voters support requiring “every voter coming to the polls present a government-issued identification to cast their ballot.” That included 100% of strong Republicans, 83.4% of Independents, and 58.4% of strong Democrats.

“This proposal would instruct clerks to mail absentee ballots, rather than applications, to many voters each year,” said Miller, who now serves as Macomb County Public Works Commissioner. “Mailing ballots is a departure from our current system where voters acknowledge their current residence and desire for a ballot by completing an application each year. Voters who have moved or died would be mailed ballots under this system and that is not a good idea.”

The former secretaries as well as many clerks across the state have highlighted that the mass mailing of ballots each election would open up new opportunities for fraud in the state’s elections. When current secretary of state Benson chose to mail unsolicited absentee ballot applications in 2020 it is estimated that at least 800,000 were sent to individuals who were not eligible to vote largely because they had moved or died.

“Proposal 2 would allow non-government, third-parties to fund our elections,” said Land, who currently sits on the Wayne State University Board of Governors. “People want fair and impartial elections and allowing special interest groups to pay for them is 100% in conflict with that.”

Proposal 2 would enshrine a constitutional right for elections officials to accept donations from third-party groups to pay for election related functions. There is no requirement that donations be offered equally to all communities in the state and instead could be given selectively to benefit areas favorable to a particular candidate or party.

The Michigan legislature passed legislation that would have required photo-ID for voting, while also providing free state ID cards to any eligible resident who needed one in October 2021. This legislation was vetoed by Governor Gretchen Whitmer.

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