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Policy Agenda Recommendations for the 2023 Fiscal Year from the Election Commission

The City Council Legislative Policy Agenda is a document that serves as statement of values for the City of Ann Arbor and provides policy guidance for City leaders and elected officials when engaging with state and federal policy makers. The Council Policy Agenda Committee drafts the agenda from suggestions from Council Members, Boards and Commissions, and staff and is provided to City Council for its adoption.

The Policy Agenda for the current year included several election related items:

- Advocate for and support changes to Michigan Election Law that would allow voters to receive absentee ballots for an entire calendar year with a single application.
- Advocate for and support changes to Michigan Election Law that would remove the current requirement to issue challenged ballots to electors registering in-person with the City Clerk during the fourteen-day period before an election who are not in possession of a Michigan Driver's License or Personal Identification Card with their current address.
- Advocate for and support changes to Michigan Election Law that would allow Absent Voter Count Boards to begin the tabulation of absentee ballots prior to Election Day.

The Election Commission recommends continued advocacy on these three priorities.

Prepared by: Jacqueline Beaudry, City Clerk

Whereas, The Election Commission desires to provide policy guidance for City leaders and elected officials when engaging with state and federal policy makers on election Issues;

Whereas, Voters adopted a measure amending Section 4 of Article II of the Michigan Constitution, adding several provisions pertaining to voting rights including, allowing for same-day registration and adopting "no reason" absentee balloting; and

Whereas, Michigan Election Law places restrictions on Michigan voters exercising their constitutional rights;

RESOLVED, that the Election Commission continues to recommend advocacy for the following Election law changes to improve voter enfranchisement:

- Advocate for and support changes to Michigan Election Law that would allow voters to receive absentee ballots for an entire calendar year with a single application.
- Advocate for and support changes to Michigan Election Law that would remove the current requirement to issue challenged ballots to electors registering in-person with the City Clerk during the fourteen-day period before an election who are not in possession of a Michigan Driver's License or Personal Identification Card with their current address.
- Advocate for and support changes to Michigan Election Law that would allow Absent Voter Count Boards to begin the tabulation of absentee ballots prior to Election Day.