

**House Committee on Ways and Means meeting Wednesday, December 4, 10:30 A.M.**

Good morning Chairman Iden, Vice-Chairs and fellow representatives,

My name is Ann Bollin. I serve as the representative for the 42<sup>nd</sup> District and prior to becoming state representative, I served as clerk for the Charter Township of Brighton for 16 years.

As you may know, there have been many election law changes over the past decade. Many of these changes have resulted in improved checks and balances, clarity, and consistency in how elections are administered. HB's 4937 and 4938 would further the efforts to move towards more consistency.

HB's 4937 and 4938, if adopted, would extend the term lengths for county commissioners from 2-years to 4-years; bringing them in line with **all** other county elected officials including the County Clerk, Treasurer, Register of Deeds, Sheriff, Prosecutor and Drain Commissioner. In charter counties, this also includes County Executives.

Michigan is only one of five states that have 2-year county commission terms.

HB's 4937 and 4938 will take County Commission seats from 2-year terms to 4-year terms beginning in 2022. 2022 was identified as a sound starting point because redistricting will take place following the 2020 census and this includes county commission districts.

County commissioners have a unique and important role setting policy with a direct fiduciary responsibility and oversight of all county operations.

County budgets, services and circumstances are unique and comprehensive. Often it can take a new commissioner a year to become familiar with the budget cycle only to have the term end in short order.

The focus must be on the delivery of these services and execution of their statutory duties and responsibilities. The 4-year terms will help county commissions plan over a longer period without interruption of on-boarding new commissioners and bring greater continuity to election administration. Specifically, in the areas of candidate administration including filings and campaign finance.

As a former clerk, I encourage the passage of these bills out of committee and believe they will add to the integrity and efficiency of election administration at the county level, enhance the policy work of the 83 county commissions across our great state, providing stability and greater accountability to Michigan residents.

Thank you again for the opportunity to address the committee and I am happy to answer any questions you may have.