

May 9th, 2023 Elections Cmte hearing, testimony on HB4210 and HB4413

My name is Cynthia Richardson, and I am a lifelong Michigan resident. I'd like to thank the Committee for hearing testimony from the citizens of the state.

I am here today to speak in opposition to House Bills 4210 and 4413.

This statement, submitted on behalf of Pure Integrity Michigan Elections, known as PIME, comes with the support of Stand Up Michigan, Michigan Fair Elections (MFE), and the Freedom Alliance Project. PIME is a peaceful, issue-based, nonpartisan movement. We welcome all who support election integrity, and the US and Michigan Constitutions.

House Bill 4210 proposes to expand electronic voting beyond the 'active uniformed services voter' to active military spouses. We know active military personnel are granted this convenience because while on active duty overseas, they may be serving on a front line or during wartime in a fox hole, or in a classified location to protect our country. Active military spouses remain at a physical address where they may receive their Absentee Voter Ballot (AVB). There is nothing preventing the spouse from receiving their AVB to their residence.

There are a significant number of things that could go wrong with HB4210 that would compromise the integrity of Michigan's election system:

- Significant risk to open our election system up to email hacking and fraud.
- Removes the signature verification step because signatures cannot be verified by email.
- No physical address to a Michigan residence is required.
- No proof of residency is required such as driver's license, state issued ID, or utility bill.

As an election worker, I have not experienced military personnel nor their family members having issues with the current voting process in place with their local Clerk.

What this bill proposes is to expand **vote by email**. There is a significant amount of evidence that email accounts are not secure and can easily be compromised by hackers and phishing techniques.

HB4210 potentially creates more work for election workers to complete after polls close at 8 p.m. Have all of you worked at a local election? Well, I have. There are never enough election workers, and most are requested to work the full day starting at 6 a.m. Work that needs to be completed after 8 p.m. may take several hours when workers have already put in a 14-hour day. I recall leaving my township after 2 a.m. when I worked the November 2020 election. Other elections I have worked were nothing less than a 15+ hours day. Again, PIME does not support HB 4210.

HB4413 proposes to allow the use of campaign funds to pay for childcare expenses, security or supervision. Campaign contributions need to go towards expenses related to campaigning, not toward everyday personal responsibilities one needs to manage while they run for office.

What is to prevent candidates and elected officials from further expanding campaign finance laws to allow them to supplement their income, housing, transportation, private schooling, cosmetic surgery, etc.? I could go on all morning. Many candidates who are elected register to run again not long after they start in office which means the elected official will have long-term covered childcare.

The citizens of Michigan who work and pay taxes do not have this luxury, so why should candidates and elected officials be so privileged as to tap into their campaign funds for this expense? There is a lot that is not being considered with HB4413 and this will only lead to opening the floodgates of special treatment for those providing a civic duty on behalf of its citizens. PIME does not support HB4413.

Cynthia Richardson
PIME Member