

Chair Tsemoglou & MI House Elections Committee members,

Please accept my Public Comment in support of HB5550 & HB5551 with the following recommendations for your consideration on 03-19-2024;

Please add a clear requirement for the State Board of Canvassers (SBC) and all County Canvassing Boards to follow Roberts Rules of Order (RONR) to conduct the Public's Business at Public Meetings & Public Hearings under MI Open Meeting Act (OMA).

The first Fundamental Principle of Parliamentary Law in the Western World for nearly 450 years has been;

'There shall be only one (1) question at a time that may be divided, while being framed in the affirmative [and] the statements of the Members shall be germane to the immediately pending question'.

****There shall be no Debate before a Motion with proper Support to approve a Specific Action (RONR Pg 366/Ln 8)**** and then the Canvassers can Debate and Discuss the immediately pending question as the process was explained and instructions were given to Secretary of State, Jocelyn Benson and the MI Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission by the Dir. Legal Services for MDOS (Mike Brady) on 09-17-2020 in the attached Transcripts.

The current practices at the Canvassing Boards across Michigan, including the SBC, is reminiscent of "Marxist Style Consensus Decision-making", where the issues are first discussed and debated to create a "proposal for a decision that includes any number of amendments" and then a Member will make a "Main Motion" to approve that amended decision without any substantive debate.

This process "Suspends the Rules by Consensus" and should be included as a "Decision" in the Meeting Minutes under MI OMA.

Also, some State & County Canvassing Boards have been making decisions and Certifying Elections with only three (3) qualified members present at the meetings in direct contradiction to Article 2, Section 7(2) of MI Constitution that states - 'There Shall be No Majority of One (1) Political Party on any Canvassing Board'.

This anomaly has happened many times during the Certifying of the Elections in Marquette County, including the;

- 1.) Certification of the election of President Joe Biden in 2020.
- 2.) Certification of 2024 Presidential Primary Election on 03-05-2024

Thank you, James Gallant, Marquette County Suicide Prevention Coalition