Thank You Mr. Chair & Committee Members

Tom Frazier, Legislative Liaison with the Michigan Townships Association

Favor No-reason AV balloting:

Had a policy position of supporting no-reason AV balloting for the past several years.

In the fast-paced lifestyle of today's society, which makes it difficult for individuals to go to the polls to vote, it only makes sense to open the reasons for applying for an AV ballot.

People would no longer have to lie about why they are requesting AV ballot.

Concerns with Early Voting:

Logistical problem as approximately ¾'s of township clerks are either part time or work out of their homes.

Many clerks have other full time jobs and do not hold regular business hours.

Currently, hours may be limited, but the township residents know those hours and can work around them.

Who would compensate locals units for the added coverage? Likely would be open 8 hours per day for a certain number of days in advance of the election. Would the state pay these added costs?

Clerks have to be open the Saturday before the election already, and in most cases (rural areas) no one comes in that day to vote an AV ballot.

Can already vote in person the Saturday (9-2 p.m.) and the Monday (9-4 p.m.) before the election if the need arises.

Would likely require an election inspector of the opposite political party be present during open hours.

What about ballot security? How would the tabulators be secured each night?

Might require an additional voting machine just for AV ballots.

Clerks are already extremely busy the last week before an election planning for Election Day activities.

Can a ballot be run through a tabulator to check for errors without being counted? I don't believe that technology is yet available. If it is counted, what about voter fraud and the release of tabulated results to date, possibly impacting the outcome of an election? This also leads to privacy issues, space allotment issues, and security issues.

Creating two classes of AV voters. One who must state one of the current 6 reasons for requesting an AV ballot and the other person who can walk into a clerk's office and vote an AV ballot for any reason.

In summary, the issue of making voting more convenient for voters can be accomplished by simply enacting no-reason AV.

Thank You Mr. Chairman & Members

I would be happy to answer any questions you might have.