Reference: _____

Category:  State Issue

Resolution Title:  Resolution for Michigan Election Reform

**Drafted by:**     Mary Shindell
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**Adopted by:** _____


**WHEREAS,**
Michigan's elections are currently conducted using optical scan tabulators and there has
been no valid certification of the security of these machines.  All three brands are
demonstrably insecure from undetected replacement or alteration of programmed
memory cards. Michigan has no election integrity audit process in place that would
ensure that the correct candidate is elected.  Current procedures leave private vendors
and officials to police themselves without any external checks.  The current use of paper
ballots provides no assurance that votes are counted accurately.  Counting of the vote is
not subject to public scrutiny. Minor errors in the sealing of voted ballots can lead to an
election being classified as "un-recountable," effectively certifying mistake and fraud
instead of causing a new election to be held.

**WHEREAS**,
The Michigan Constitution fails to guarantee or protect the right to vote. Michigan
citizens must scale major barriers to gain access to their right to vote. The present 30
day deadline for voter registration serves no useful or compelling government purpose,
and it excludes large numbers of citizens—particularly those who are young, poor, travel
for a living, rent their dwelling place, move frequently, or who are homeless. Citizens
who wish to vote by mail must choose one of six limited reasons for voting absentee.
Citizens who register for the first time by mail cannot vote absentee, creating a barrier
for those in the United States who travel or live temporarily far away from home.

**IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Washtenaw County Democratic Party**
supports the comprehensive legislative plan proposed by Michigan Election Reform
Alliance, including specifically these priorities:

1) **Amend the Michigan Constitution to guarantee a *right to vote*** to all U.S. citizens
18 years of age or older who have been resident in the state for 30 days or more on the
day of an election. This right to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United
States, any State, or any other public or private person or entity.

2) **Require hand count audits** in each precinct of at least one randomly chosen race or
ballot initiative (to vary from precinct to precinct). Require the audits to be conducted
either on election night by trained and sworn election auditors or during the period
following the election and before the results are officially certified.

3.) **Mandate a full recount by hand** of any race or ballot initiative in which the margin
of victory recorded on the first full tabulation of the ballots is 2% or less.  If the required

random audits or independent audits show that a margin of victory of 2% or less has occurred in any race or ballot initiative, then a full recount by hand shall be mandated for that race or initiative, for the entire district, jurisdiction, or set of jurisdictions in which that race or initiative was put to the ballot. Mandate a new election for any and all races or ballot initiatives in which mistakes or fraud have corrupted the election process beyond the possibility of an accurate and conclusive recount.

4) **Ensure voting machine security** by preventing any alteration of the programmed functions of vote tabulators after they have been tested and sealed. The source code actually used to implement the tabulator memory in any tabulator used during an election must be available for review by election officials at every level. Consistent with current law that all parties touching voting equipment must be sworn to an oath, require that any person who programs a ballot and optical scan tabulator memory be sworn to uphold the Constitution, and that the programming must be audited and approved by a second sworn individual. Require that local election administrators maintain a written log of the chain of custody of vote tabulators, program memory cards, blank ballots, AutoMark test ballots, voted ballots, and spoiled/defective ballots. Require that AutoMark test ballots be clearly identified, permanently labeled, and unusable for fraud. Require that all blank, unused ballots must be documented and accounted for, including blank ballots that were not delivered to any precinct.

5.) **Protect access to voting** by allowing Absentee Voting for any registered elector who applies, without requiring or asking for any reason to be specified on the application. Allow Election Day Registration at the local clerk's office, or at the clerk's discretion, at the precinct. Allow a registered elector to vote one more time from their last registered address. Drop the current requirement that first-time voters who register by mail must vote in person. Provide that mail-in registrations may have the registration signature officially witnessed by any sworn election official or certified notary public, so that the registrant may then vote by absentee ballot.

**IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Washtenaw County Democratic Party calls upon the Michigan Democratic Party to support this resolution; and

**IT IS FINALLY RESOLVED** that the Washtenaw County Democratic Party will furnish a copy of this resolution to the Michigan Election Reform Alliance and the Democratic state legislators representing Washtenaw County.

Signed: _____     Date: _____