



# BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Gogebic County

200 N. Moore St.

Bessemer, Michigan 49911

## GOGEBIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

### RESOLUTION OPPOSING MICHIGAN SECRETARY OF STATE "BY APPOINTMENT ONLY"

#### Resolution #2021-

WHEREAS, Michigan Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson, recently stated Michigan residents will always need an appointment to conduct business at a Secretary of State branch office and suggested making this permanent change, is an improvement in service; and

WHEREAS, The Secretary of State called walk-in service at the branches an "antiquated, inefficient, take-a-number system that nobody liked"; the reality is that most people do want the option to walk in to a branch office for service at *their* convenience; and

WHEREAS, into only Gogebic County residents but all residents of the State of Michigan should have the ability to renew and make changes to all necessary documentation timely and locally through services provided by the Michigan Secretary of State; that these changes defy common sense in serving the public and is a significant reduction in convenient service; and

WHEREAS, while some industry changes were positive during the coronavirus and made sense; this change is not as constituents need to be able to transfer vehicles; renew and update driver's licenses expediently, so that they can prove and provide legal ownership and residency; and

WHEREAS, these changes have been established without input from constituents, who are directly affected by this sweeping change and web-based services do not completely replace the need for walk-in service at the branch offices. Many older residents and those without computers or internet will simply be turned away at the Secretary of State's door; and

WHEREAS, these changes will only continue to frustrate citizens who just would like their license renewed or to be able to sell a vehicle, without having to wait weeks or even months or drive to a different service area to accomplish these simple tasks;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT Gogebic County Board of Commissioners, State of Michigan, hereby STRONGLY opposes "By Appointment Only" services for the residents not only in Gogebic County but for the entire State of Michigan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this resolution be sent to Governor Gretchen Whitmer, Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson, Senate and House leaders, and Michigan Association of Counties (MAC)

Adopted this 26<sup>th</sup> day of May 2021

James A. Lorensen, Chairperson

<u>District 1</u>	<u>District 2</u>	<u>District 3</u>	<u>District 4</u>	<u>District 5</u>	<u>District 6</u>	<u>District 7</u>
Dan Siirila	Tom Laabs	Jim Byrns Vice Chair	Jim Lorensen Chair	Joe Bonovetz	Bob Orlich	George Peterson III