

2021-08

COUNTY OF BRANCH

RESOLUTION OPPOSING MICHIGAN SECRETARY OF STATE  
"BY APPOINTMENT ONLY"

**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**, not only Branch 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**, some industry changes were positive during the coronavirus and made sense; this change does 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 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 the Branch County Board of Commissioners hereby **STRONGLY** opposes "By Appointment Only" services for the residents not only in Branch County but for the entire State of Michigan; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to Governor Gretchen Whitmer, Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson, Senate and House leaders of Branch County, and Michigan Association of Counties.

**RESOLUTION ADOPTED:**

  
Randall Hazelbaker, Chairperson  
Branch County Board of Commissioners

  
Teresa Kubasiak, County Clerk  
Branch County

Dated: 6/8/21

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