

# County of Muskegon



## IN OPPOSITION TO HOUSE BILL 811

WHEREAS, the Michigan Election system, utilizing paper ballots that are scanned via the optical scan process, has proven in this as well as many others, to be an almost foolproof system and was used in many of the Florida counties in 2000 that had zero election problems, and is successfully used in many other states; and

WHEREAS, the State provides for a user friendly optical scan compatible marking machine that works to assist voters who cannot physically mark a ballot, which can also be used by the blind, as well as physically handicapped persons and includes a touch screen feature; and

WHEREAS, the State of Michigan has invested over \$32,000,000 of U.S. taxpayers monies in the purchase and installation of "optical scan and handicapped marking equipment" in every polling precinct in the State of Michigan and has provided training for county clerks and local elections officials on how to best use the equipment; and

WHEREAS, the proposed legislation will not allow for the current and recently installed optical scan equipment to be used, thereby calling upon the local units to invest monies to satisfy unneeded, unwanted and possibly unsecured technology; and


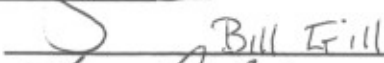
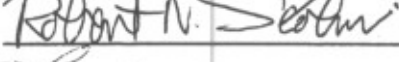

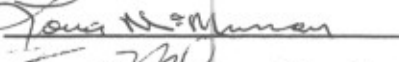

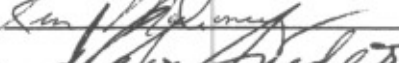
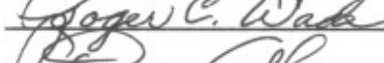


WHEREAS, this proposed legislation mandates hand county audits of election results of 9 to 30% of all precincts, not allowing for other more likely needed recounts to occur which would slow down that process making post election difficult for the duly constituted and appointed election officials to canvass; and

WHEREAS, a recount of the magnitude suggested (or required) by the house bill would put a burden upon the taxpayers and local election officials without good cause; and

WHEREAS, ballot security would be jeopardized should untrained and/or unskilled workers "hand recount" ballots, which are currently subject to the 22-month federal retention period;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Muskegon County Board of Commissioners opposes the passage of House Bill 811 and urges that control of elections remain with the various states and their local political subdivisions; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be forwarded to Congressman Peter Hoekstra, Senator Carl Levin, Senator Debbie Stabenow, Secretary of State Terri Lynn Land, Governor Jennifer Granholm and the Michigan Association of Counties. r

 _____ Martin Lofte	 _____ Bill Fill
 _____ Robert N. Seaman	 _____ Tom Callan
 _____ Louisa N. Munson	 _____ Chad Byrdell
 _____ Tom McManus	 _____ Roger C. Wade
 _____ John Stieder	 _____ P.C. - Oley