



# MI-2022 Election Protection Program

**Melanie Macey**  
PTV Election Protection Coordinator  
[epcoordinator@promotethevotemi.com](mailto:epcoordinator@promotethevotemi.com)  
[PromoteTheVoteMI.com](http://PromoteTheVoteMI.com)

VOTE

# What's the Election Protection Program?

# The MI-2022 EPP

- Building on success in 2020
  - Higher turnout
  - Reduction in racial disparities in civic participation
- Coordinated, statewide effort
- Goals
  1. Boost participation of historically disenfranchised communities and reduce disparities in civic participation, and
  2. Prevent election subversion

# Historically Disenfranchised Voting Groups

- Highlighting 54 “Election Protection Jurisdictions” focusing on historically disenfranchised voting groups
  - Citizens with disabilities
  - Citizens with limited English-language proficiency
  - Citizens experiencing housing insecurity or homelessness
  - College students
  - Indigenous citizens
  - LGBTQ citizens
  - Low-income citizens
  - New Americans
  - People of color
  - Pre-trial detainees
  - Returning citizens
  - Rural citizens
  - Young people (18-24) not attending college

# The MI-2022 EPP Framework

- Program Areas
  - Coordination
  - Education for all
  - Election official engagement
  - Poll worker recruitment & placement
  - Rapid response
  - Legal support

VOTE

# Rapid Response

# Rapid Response Big Picture

- Managing Michigan-based election protection hotline
- Coordinating Election Day response to voter suppression/misinformation
- Recruiting and training poll watchers and observers for post-election canvass
- Managing nonpartisan challenger program
  - Recruiting
  - Training
  - Requesting credentials from county clerks
  - Assigning to polling locations in EP jurisdictions

# Election Day Rapid Response

- Nonpartisan Election Protection Hotline
  - **866-OUR-VOTE (866-687-8683)**
  - Also available in Spanish, Arabic, Bengali, Cantonese, Hindi, Korean, Mandarin, Tagalog, Urdu, Vietnamese
- Challengers – eyes and ears on the ground
- Boiler Room – addresses issues that are reported to the 866-OUR-VOTE hotline





# ■ What Issues Are We Anticipating?



# ■ Challenger Basics

# Monitor vs Challenger

- **Election Challenger:** someone who observes the election process and can make challenges; challengers are credentialed and must be registered to vote in Michigan
- **Poll Monitor:** someone who observes the election process, but cannot make challenges; poll watchers are not credentialed and need not to be registered to vote in Michigan

# Key PTV Challenger Roles

- Help ensure that every eligible voter can cast a ballot
- Advocate for voters having difficulty voting through conversations with the challenger liaison
- Eyes and ears on the ground → report incidents that prevent or threaten to prevent voters from casting a ballot
- Record any issues that arise and all relevant details

# Challenger Rights (Observe, but don't impede)

- Be present in the polling place
- Inspect applications to vote, registration lists, and other printed materials used to conduct elections (but they may not touch or handle any of those materials, and the inspection must not impede the voting process)
- Observe the election process from a reasonable distance, so long as election inspectors have sufficient room to perform their duties and voters are not impeded in any way

# ■ Challenger Rights (Look, But Don't Touch)

- If serving in a polling place where ballots are being issued, stand behind the processing table in a position close enough to view the poll book as ballots are issued to voters and the voters' names are entered into the poll book, so long as the challenger does not touch or handle the poll book or otherwise interfere with the work of the election inspectors



# Challenger Rights (Take Notes but Don't Record)

- If in a precinct – use electronic devices, so long as the device is not disruptive and is **not used** to make video or audio recordings of the polling place
- Take notes about the election process

# Challenger Rights (Make Challenges!)

- Notify the challenger liaison of perceived violations of election laws by third parties, including electioneering within 100 feet of the precinct, improper handling of a ballot by a voter, or other issues
- Make challenges



# Challengers May NOT . . .

- Speak with or interact in any way with voters
- Threaten or intimidate (or attempt to threaten or intimidate) voters or election inspectors
- Take any actions to disrupt or interfere with voting, ballot tabulation, or any other election process
- Make repeated impermissible challenges
- Make a challenge indiscriminately or without good cause, or for the purpose of harassing, delaying, or annoying anyone

# Challengers May NOT . . .

- **Physically touch** or interact with ballots, absent voter ballot envelopes, electronic poll books, physical poll books, or any other election materials
- Stand so close to the poll book or other materials that the challenger's proximity to those materials **interferes** with the election inspector's ability to perform their duties
- **Use a device to make video or audio recordings in a polling place, clerk's office, or AVCB**
- **Provide (or offer to provide) assistance to voters**

# Types of Challenges

- Challenges to a voter's eligibility
- Challenge to an Absent Voter in the polls
- Challenges to an election process

# Challenges to a Voter's Eligibility

- If a challenger has good reason to believe that a person who offers to vote is not qualified to vote in that precinct, a challenge may be made immediately after the voter completes an Application to Vote and before the voter is issued a ballot.
- Examples of “good reasons” include:
  - Voter has not lived in the city or township in which they are attempting to vote for at least 30 days before the election
  - Voter is not yet 18 years old
  - Voter is not a U.S. citizen
  - Voter is not registered to vote



# Challenges to a Voter's Eligibility

- To make this type of challenge, a challengers must explain the reason for challenging a voter's eligibility.
- Impermissible reasons for challenging eligibility include:
  - Lack of photo ID
  - Race or ethnic background
  - Sexual orientation or gender identity
  - Physical or mental disability
  - Inability to read, write, or speak English
  - Need for assistance when voting
  - Manner of dress
  - Support or opposition to a candidate, political party, or ballot question



# Challenge Procedure: Election Process

- A challenger may challenge a voting process, including the way that election inspectors are operating a polling place.
- Challenger must state the specific element or elements of the process that the challenger believes are being improperly performed and the basis for the challenger's belief.
- Challenge must be directed to the challenger liaison; if the liaison rejects the challenge, the challenger may contact the clerk to resolve the matter.
- The election inspectors must enter a complete record of the challenge in the pollbook.



# How Can You Get Involved?



# Volunteer Opportunities

- Michigan-specific Election Protection hotline
  - [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1L5EQDEHvDitom43J9tKvUUBICzz\\_iWUZMewX6m0Ltfs/](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1L5EQDEHvDitom43J9tKvUUBICzz_iWUZMewX6m0Ltfs/)
- Election Day Challenger Program
  - <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1f9xW0yTkSHUEdvVpg-CaeQ6xQCTfnkirHRIEENiSHNs>



# Questions?

Melanie Macey  
Election Protection Coordinator  
Promote the Vote MI  
[epcoordinator@promotethevotemi.com](mailto:epcoordinator@promotethevotemi.com)

