



Write a Letter to the Editor!

Help get the word out about The Michigan Supreme Court Race by writing a letter to the editor to your local paper.

As a Voters Not Politicians volunteer working to support pro-democracy Supreme Court candidates you can help us strengthen our democracy through effective citizen action by contacting a local publication in your community. **Writing a letter to the editor is an impactful way to spread the word to your neighbors and community** about voting in the nonpartisan section of the ballot, including the Michigan Supreme Court

How to write a Letter to the Editor:

1. **Read this entire document first.** You will find instructions on how to write a letter to the editor, tips and tricks to help your letter get published, and an example letter.
2. **Identify a local publication** that you want to submit your letter to and review their requirements (some publications have a word limit!). Don't worry if you aren't sure who you want to submit your letter to – we can help! Think about the publications you see in your local diner or supermarket. These weekly papers are important for this effort!
3. **Write your letter.** Feel free to send it to us to review if you would like!
4. **Submit your letter** making sure you include your full name and city. Then fill out this form to let us know where you sent it. **PLEASE send a link or a photo of your letter to info@votersedfund.com if published! We'll mention it in our next monthly newsletter**

Guidelines

Read through the guidelines below to increase the chances of your letter being approved and published in your local publication!

Do's:

- ✓ **Keep it simple!** Use plain, simple language.
- ✓ **Include a personal touch** by explaining why you think these efforts are important.
- ✓ **Outline the problem.** Despite Michigan federal elections receiving around 70% voter turnout, around one-third of voters skip the nonpartisan section of the ballot. Even if you decide to vote straight-ticket, you still need to fill out the nonpartisan section on the back to vote in crucial judicial races such as the Michigan Supreme Court.
- ✓ **Tie your letter into your local area**, community, or social connections in some way.
- ✓ **Include a call to action:**
 - ❑ Sign the pledge to vote your full ballot, including the nonpartisan Supreme Court.

- ❑ Learn more about the candidates and where they stand on your voting rights.
- ✓ **Review your local publication's letter to the editor requirements.**

Don'ts:

- × **Don't be partisan!** Voters Not Politicians is a nonpartisan organization, and our focus is on protecting voting rights for all Michiganders. Voting for Supreme Court justices is a pro-democracy choice, not a partisan choice.
 - × **Don't tell people how to vote.**
 - × **Don't demonize** or name-call the opposition. – we don't need to hurt the message by adding unnecessary negative messaging.
 - × **Don't overthink it**, stay true to what you know and stick to the suggested talking points.
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Sample Letter to the Editor

[Emphasize importance of this moment] The Michigan Supreme Court is the highest legal authority in the state, and its decisions directly impact your voting rights, civil rights, disability rights, and more.

[Connect it to personal] As a voter, I want to be informed as to who I'm voting for in all races and I want to vote for candidates who match my principles and will protect my rights.

I urge all readers of the **[publication]** to learn more about the Michigan Supreme Court candidates and other important races in the nonpartisan section of your ballot. You can learn more about the Supreme Court candidates and how they stand regarding your voting rights at vnp.vote/flipit.

Thank you,

[Name, City]

Sample Letter to the Editor #2

[Emphasize importance of this moment] Democracy on the ballot is not just on the top of the ticket. Regardless of who is elected president, the Michigan Supreme Court will be responsible for handling any legal challenges regarding election results and electoral processes.

[Connect it to personal] As a voter, I want to know that our Supreme Court justices will respect the will of the voter and protect our voting rights.

I urge all readers of the **[publication]** to learn more about the Michigan Supreme Court candidates and other important races in the nonpartisan section of your ballot. You can learn more about the Supreme Court candidates at vnp.vote/flipit

Thank you,

[Name, City]

Menu of Talking Points

- The Michigan Supreme Court is the highest legal authority in the state.
- The Michigan Supreme Court decisions directly impact voting rights, civil rights, disability rights, privacy rights, and more.
- Many voters don't vote their entire ballot, especially the nonpartisan section that includes Supreme Court justices.
 - In 2022, there was a drop-off of over 1 million voters between the gubernatorial race at the top of the ticket and the nonpartisan Supreme Court justices on the back of the ballot.
 - In the 2020 presidential election, the drop-off was even larger, with almost 2 million voters leaving the Supreme Court section blank.
- Michigan Supreme Court decisions can impact the trajectory of our democracy.
 - In 2018, a split Michigan Supreme Court decision compelled the Board of State Canvassers (BOSC) to place our independent redistricting amendment on the ballot for voters.
 - In 2022, in a 5-2 decision, the court put Proposal 22-2, which VNP supported with more than 170,000 volunteer signatures, on the ballot after the BOSC deadlocked.
 - And just this year, in another split decision, the court [overturned the anti-democratic legislative scheme](#) known as "adopt-and-amend".
- There are TWO seats up for election in 2024, which could determine control of the court.
- Justice Kyra Harris Bolden and Kimberly Thomas earned Voters Not Politicians' Pro-Voter, Pro-Democracy approval for the Michigan Supreme Court.
 - Justice Kyra Harris Bolden wrote the majority opinion upholding rules for poll challengers, sided with the majority to overturn the anti-democratic "adopt-and-amend" scheme, and has consistently demonstrated commitment to protecting voting rights.
 - Kimberly Thomas is a law professor at the University of Michigan Law School. She believes in upholding the laws of our state including the laws protecting the right to vote and fair elections and the right of Michiganders to have their vote counted.
- You can learn more about how the candidates stand regarding your voting rights at vnp.vote/flipit
 - (If publications don't want to print website links, you can tell direct people to "learn more from the nonpartisan organization Voters Not Politicians." The link is accessible through the Voters Not Politicians website.

Resources

- [VNP Pro-Voter Approved Candidates](https://vnp.vote/2024approved) (vnp.vote/2024approved)
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QUESTIONS?? Please email melinda@votersnotpoliticians.com if you have questions about drafting or placing a letter to the editor in your community.

(A Few) Publications to Submit Letters to the Editor in Michigan:

If submissions are through a general contact form, select “Editorials,” “Managing Editor,” or something similar as the destination (if “Letters to the Editor” is not available).

- [Battle Creek Enquirer](#)
- [Big Rapids Pioneer](#)
- [Cadillac News](#) (300 words limit)
- [Clinton Township Daily Tribune](#) (250 words or less)
- [Detroit Free Press](#) (150 words or less)
- [Detroit News](#)
- [Escanaba Daily Press](#)
- [Grosse Pointe News](#)
- [Herald Palladium](#) (500 words or less; 300 words for candidates/proposals)
- [Houghton Daily Mining Gazette](#)
- [Huron Daily Tribune](#) (200 words or less)
- [Iron Mountain Daily News](#)
- [Ironwood Daily Globe](#) (5000 characters)
- [Lansing State Journal](#) (100 words or fewer for election letters)
- [Livingston County Daily Press & Argus](#) (250 words or fewer)
- [Macomb Daily](#) (250 words or less)
- [Manistee News-Advocate](#)
- [Marquette Mining Journal](#)
- [Midland Daily News](#) (350 words or less)
- [Monroe News](#)
- [Mount Pleasant Morning Sun](#) (250 words or less)
- [Oakland Press](#) (250 words or less)
- [Owosso Argus-Press](#) (400 word limit)
- [Port Huron Times Herald](#) (250 words or less)
- [Saint Joseph Herald-Palladium](#) (500 words or less)
- [Three Rivers Commercial-News](#) (250 words or less)
- [Traverse City Record-Eagle](#) (100 words or less)