



# Write a Letter to the Editor!

**Help spread the word about voter suppression ballot initiatives by writing a letter to the editor to your local paper.**

As a Voters Not Politicians volunteer working to prevent adding new restrictions to voter registration, you can help us protect 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 the dangers of voter suppression proposals like the “Americans for Citizen Voting” ballot initiatives.

## 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@votersnotpoliticians.com](mailto:info@votersnotpoliticians.com) if published! We'll mention share it out.

## 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 are involved and think these efforts are important.
- ✓ **Outline the problem.** Anti-voter politicians and special interests are trying to rewrite parts of our state constitution that Michigan voters overwhelmingly approved in 2018 and 2022. By introducing burdensome and unfeasible new identification requirements into the state constitution, tens of thousands of eligible Michigan voters could be disenfranchised.
- ✓ **Tie your letter into your local area,** community or social connections in some way.
- ✓ **Include a call to action:**

- ☐ Learn more about these policies at [vnp.vote/DTS](https://vnp.vote/DTS)
  - ☐ Help protect our constitution and our voting rights by volunteering with VNP at [vnp.vote/save-act](https://vnp.vote/save-act)
  - ☐ Join an upcoming event to learn more and stop voter suppression [vnp.vote/events](https://vnp.vote/events)
- ✓ **Review your local publication's letter to the editor requirements.**

### Don'ts:

- × **Don't be partisan!** Voters Not Politicians is a nonpartisan organization, and these policies would hurt *all* voters, regardless of political affiliation. We must protect the rights of every voter in Michigan.
  - × **Don't use opposition talking points**, including the misleading names that these petitions will go by. These are voter suppression petitions pure and simple, and that's what they should be identified as.
  - × **Don't repeat misinformation**, even to deny it. Repeating misinformation amplifies it and allows the incorrect information to spread further. Focus on repeating only positive messaging.
  - × **Don't demonize** or name-call the opposition. – we don't need to hurt the message by adding unnecessary negative messaging.
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## Sample Letter to the Editor

**[Express this the will of voters]** In 2022, Michiganders voted to make voting more accessible and more secure by passing Proposal 22-2.

**[Connect it to personal]** Petitions circulating this summer are trying to directly undermine the election systems that millions of Michiganders, like myself, voted for just 2 years ago. As someone who has never purchased a passport, the red tape that these proposals will add only serves to make it harder for someone like me to exercise my constitutional right to vote.

I urge all readers of the **[publication]** to remain vigilant and refuse to sign any petition that mentions citizen voting. You can learn more about the dangers of these petitions at [vnp.vote/DTS](https://vnp.vote/DTS).

Thank you,

**[Name, City]**

## Menu of Talking Points Against Voter Suppression Proposals

- If this petition passes, every voter will have to jump through extra hoops to prove their citizenship before the November 2, 2027 election or they will be forced to vote a provisional ballot.
- This is not about voter ID, that is just a pretense being used to mislead the public. This is about forcing eligible voters to cut through additional red tape to prove that they are eligible.
- This will require putting absentee voters' sensitive and personal information at risk, including partial Social Security numbers and important documents like birth certificates, marriage licenses, and more.
- Politicians and national special interest groups are trying to avoid accountability by picking which voters are allowed to vote. Voters should choose their politicians, not the other way around.
- Politicians and special interests are trying to rewrite parts of our state constitution that Michigan voters already overwhelmingly approved in 2018 and 2022.
- These petitions are a direct assault on Michigan citizens' access to the ballot
- Under these proposals voters could be blocked from registering to vote using their driver's license or other state-provided identification. There are no guarantees under these amendments.
- Altering the voter registration rules for only state elections would effectively create a two-tiered voting system, forcing the state to maintain two separate voter registration rolls and creating additional costs and burdens for our local clerks and election administrators.
- Michigan's elections are already secure and transparent. Our systems work. Michigan doesn't need or want politicians or special interests interfering in our elections.
- Altering our constitution is unnecessary and a waste of resources. Michigan already has a constitutional photo ID standard, and under Secure Automatic Voter Registration, only proven citizens are registered to vote. Why should we change that?
- Women, rural voters, young voters and overseas military and their families will be disproportionately affected, not to mention the millions of people who will struggle to acquire the required documentation whether because of cost or logistical barriers.
- These petitions would up-end online voter registration, including for service members deployed overseas who would effectively be barred from registering or updating their voter registration.
- These petitions would prevent Michigan voters from being able to register to vote by mailing in an application - a service many rural voters rely on.

## Resources

- [Voters Not Politicians Stop Voter Suppression Policy Page](#)

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**QUESTIONS??** Please email [melinda@votersnotpoliticians.com](mailto:melinda@votersnotpoliticians.com) if you have questions on 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)
- [Ottawa News Network](#) (Around 300 words) Submit to [newsroom@ottawanewsnetwork.org](mailto:newsroom@ottawanewsnetwork.org)
- [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)