



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

documentary proof of citizenship threats like the “Americans for Citizen Voting” ballot initiative and the federal “SAVE Act”.

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 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.** Politicians and their billionaire backers are trying to seize and hold power by stopping people from voting. In Michigan, voters choose our politicians, not the other way around.
- ✓ **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/dpoc
 - ❑ Help protect our constitution and our voting rights by volunteering with VNP at vnp.vote/dpoc
 - ❑ Join an upcoming event to learn how you can take action to protect your standard of voting 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 need to 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 policies make voting harder, pure and simple, and that's how they should be identified.
- × **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.

Sample Letter to the Editor

[Express this the will of voters] No one wants to make voting any harder for eligible citizens.

[Connect it to personal] Federal and statewide proposals are trying to require extra proof in order to vote, like a passport or certified birth certificate. As someone who has never purchased a passport, the red tape that these proposals will add only serves to make it harder for people like me to exercise my constitutional right to vote.

I urge all readers of the **[publication]** to remain vigilant and reject any attempts to make voting harder in Michigan. You can learn more about the dangers of these proposals at vnp.vote/dpoc.

Thank you,

[Name, City]

Menu of Talking Points Against Voter Suppression Proposals

- **Politicians and their billionaire backers are trying to seize and hold power** by stopping people from voting. In Michigan, voters choose our politicians, not the other way around.
- Voters will **no longer be able to register and vote using their driver's license, Real ID, or other state-provided identification**. The photo ID that most Michiganders have ready access to, that millions of Michigan voters use every year to prove their identity, will not prove your citizenship.
- **These new restrictive requirements could block over 700,000 Michigan citizens from voting. That's enough votes to change the results of every presidential election in Michigan going back to 1964.**
- **This is a power grab by politicians and wealthy elites disguised as a citizen initiative.** Instead of solving a problem, this is creating a new problem for everyday citizens by **making it harder for eligible Michiganders to register and vote.**
- If this passes, eligible Michigan citizens will be blocked from voting by unnecessary red tape and bureaucracy, and the billionaires and politicians who are backing these measures will continue consolidating their own political power.
- This is not about voter ID, that is just a pretense being used to mislead the public. This is about forcing voters to cut through additional red tape to prove that they are eligible.
 - Michigan already has secure photo ID laws. Calling this a voter ID law is, frankly, BS.

Resources

- [More Talking Points and Messaging](#)
- [Voters Not Politicians Stop Voter Suppression Policy Page](#)

QUESTIONS?? Please email melinda@votersnotpoliticians.com or cgrum01@yahoo.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).

✚ Letters to the Editor Outlet Database

- [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
- [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)