



Write a Letter to the Editor!

Help get the word out about the SAVE Act and HJR B by writing a letter to the editor to your local paper.

As a Voters Not Politicians volunteer working to oppose new restrictions on 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 SAVE Act and HJR B.

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 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 lawmakers in both the Michigan House and the US House have introduced legislation to restrict the ability of eligible American citizens to register to vote by introducing oppressive new identification requirements. Together, the SAVE Act and HJR B would needlessly disenfranchise *millions* of eligible voters.
- ✓ **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/save-act

- ❑ Join Voters Not Politicians' Dial for Democracy program to get in contact with your lawmaker - vnp.vote/dial
- ❑ Join an upcoming Stop the SAVE Act or Protect Prop 22-2 event at 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 demonize** or name-call the opposition. – we don't need to hurt the message by adding unnecessary negative messaging.
 - × **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.
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Sample Letter to the Editor

[Express this the will of voters] In 2022, Michiganders voted to make voting easier and more secure. Proposal 22-2 gave Michigan voters the secure, modern, accessible election system that we all used to

[Connect it to personal] HJR B is a direct assault on Michigan citizens' access to the ballot, and the provisions of this amendment fly in the face of the millions of Michiganders, like myself, who voted to expand ballot access just 2 years ago with the passage of Proposal 22-2. As someone who doesn't have a passport, it also poses a direct threat to my constitutional right to vote.

I urge all readers of the **[publication]** to contact their state representative and state senator and tell them that you oppose voter registration restrictions like HJR B. You can get contact information and a script to follow by signing up for Dial for Democracy through the nonpartisan group Voters Not Politicians at vnp.vote/dial.

Thank you,

[Name, City]

Menu of Talking Points for HJR B

- HJR B is a direct assault on Michigan citizens' access to the ballot
- HJR B is a blatant attempt to undermine the will of Michigan voters and diminish the power of the people to have a voice in their democracy.
- The provisions of the HJR B amendment fly in the face of the millions of Michiganders who voted to expand ballot access just 2 years ago with the passage of Proposal 22-2.
- Under HJR B voters could be blocked from registering to vote using their driver's license or other state-provided identification. There are no guarantees under this amendment.
- Under HJR B, the documentation that a voter can provide to prove their citizenship is left deliberately vague and undefined. There is nothing in HJR B as it is currently written that outlines a clear path to proving citizenship.
- HJR B is not a voter ID bill, it is a proof of citizenship bill that forces voters to jump through hoops to prove that they are eligible, instead of leaving that responsibility to the Secretary of State or another government body.
- HJR B would place additional burdens on local clerks and election administrators, make it harder and more expensive to administer elections, and make our entire election process less efficient.
- Michiganders, across the political spectrum and representing every county in the state, have made it very clear that they support elections that are secure, modern, and accessible. That's why they voted to adopt our current electoral system, a system that works and that Michiganders want to keep working.
- Voters Not Politicians is raising the alarm about this proposal now, so that we can educate the public and make sure every Michigan voter knows that HJR B is not about protecting voters, it's about blocking access to the ballot.
- Michigan's elections are already secure and transparent. HJR B and its proposed changes are an unworkable solution to a nonexistent problem, and would disenfranchise, at minimum, tens of thousands of eligible voters.

Additional Menu of Talking Points for SAVE Act

- Michigan's elections are already secure and transparent. Our systems work. Michigan doesn't need or want any federal interference in our elections.
- The SAVE Act will make it more difficult for millions of citizens to register to vote and cast a ballot, regardless of their party affiliation.
- The SAVE Act would require every single American citizen to bring specific documentation - like a passport or original copy of a birth certificate - **in person** to register to vote or update their voter registration.
- The SAVE Act would up-end online voter registration, including for service members deployed overseas who would effectively be barred from registering or updating their voter registration.
- The SAVE Act would prevent Americans from being able to register to vote by mailing in an application - a service many rural voters rely on.
- The SAVE Act would especially harm the two-thirds of Black Americans who lack a valid U.S. passport, the tens of millions of Americans who do not have readily available access to their

birth certificates, and millions of married women who do not have birth certificates with their current legal name.

- Federal passage of the SAVE Act would apply only to federal elections, forcing the state to maintain two separate voter registration rolls and creating additional costs and burdens for our local clerks and election administrators.

Resources

- [Voters Not Politicians HJR B and SAVE Act Policy Page](#)
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QUESTIONS?? Please email 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)
- [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)