



Friday, May 11th

Poll Finds 77% Support For Voting Rights Ballot Proposal

A proposed constitutional amendment aimed at bolstering voting access found favor with 77 percent of likely November 2018 voters, according to a poll released by EPIC-MRA.

The poll tested the voters' appetite for the petition fronted by Promote the Vote, a campaign backed by the ACLU and League of Women Voters of Michigan. Another 13 percent would either vote no or were leaning no. Exactly 10 percent were undecided or refused to answer.

The constitutional amendment would provide for and ensure a number of voting-related reforms, such as no-reason absentee voting, straight-ticket voting, allow for more time for voter registration, and more.

"The strong support shown for Promote the Vote across the state shows that this measure is focused on ensuring that every eligible voter can make their voice heard and that voting is secure and fair," said Judy **KARANDJEFF**, president of the League of Women Voters of Michigan and treasurer of Promote the Vote, in a statement.

Promote the Vote paid for the question on EPIC-MRA's statewide April poll. Here's how the question was worded:

"Supporters of a voting rights amendment to the Michigan Constitution, a group called Promote the Vote, are currently collecting signatures to qualify for the November ballot. If they are able to collect at least 316,000 valid petition signatures, the proposed amendment would be placed on the November election ballot. If approved, it would . . .

- Ensure military service members and overseas voters get their ballots in time for their votes to count;

- The amendment would protect the right to vote by secret ballot;

- Automatically register all citizens at the Secretary of State's office unless the citizen declines;

- Provide all registered voters with the option of voting by absentee ballot for any reason;
- Allow a citizen to register to vote anytime with proof of residency up to and on election day;
- Ensure the accuracy and integrity of elections by auditing election results;
- And provide voters with the option of voting by straight party ticket.

Based on this description and what you may know or have heard or read about the proposal, if it appears on the ballot in November, if the election were held today, would you vote YES to approve of the proposal, or, would you vote NO to oppose it?"

Bernie **PORN**, president of EPIC-MRA, said the support for Promote the Vote is "significant and consistent across the state and across party lines."

Porn said that "while the yes vote is highest in northern Michigan, every region of the state has the yes vote over 70 percent. Similarly, when you look at party affiliation, Republicans vote yes on a 70 to 19 percent basis while support from Democrats comes in at 86 percent yes to just 6 percent no."

The poll also had a question that stated the proposed changes "mirror reforms that have been enacted in 40 other states that made these reforms so that voting would be more accessible for all citizens."

After being told that, 40 percent were more likely to vote yes, while 3 percent were less likely to vote yes, and 52 percent said that information didn't influence them one way or another.

The EPIC-MRA poll surveyed 600 likely November 2018 voters between April 28 and April 30. The margin of error was 4 percent and 30 percent came from cell phones.

Promote the Vote has until July 9 to submit at least 315,654 valid signatures to the state for a chance of certification on the November 2018 ballot. The campaign has at least \$1 million to its name as of the latest campaign finance report (See "[Voting Rights, 30% RPS Ballot Committees Top \\$1M Raised](#)," 4/25/18).