



Carmella Sabaugh

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Deputy Clerk

Macomb County
Clerk/Register of Deeds

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February 2, 2009

Dear Editor:


Now is a good time to enact early voting in Michigan. Early voting would let citizens vote before Election Day if they choose, reduce spoiled ballots, and increase participation. Citizens who must work on Election Day should get a chance to vote in person on their day off before the election. Early voting recently started in Iraq. We can do it in Michigan.

I support Macomb County's legislators who have the chance to consider other election reforms:

- * Online voter registration: you can pay taxes and register for the Selective Service System online, you should be able to register to vote online.
- * No-reason absentee voting: you don't have to give a reason to pay taxes by mail, you should not have to give a reason to vote by mail.
- * Macomb County's online absent voter antifraud system should be adopted statewide.
- * Macomb County's online reporting of county and local campaign finance reports should be adopted statewide.
- * Clerks should have the option to mail absent voter application forms to qualified citizens.
- * All-mail elections would save money and it's time to try it in local elections in Michigan.
- * Secretary of State Land's pre-registration of 16 year-olds is a great idea and should be adopted in addition to, not instead of, these reforms.

Now is a great time to enact these reforms and implement them before the next big election.

Sincerely,


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