



10531 ALGOMA AVENUE - ROCKFORD, MI 49341-7108  
PHONE 616.866.1583 - FAX 616.866.3832  
[www.algotwp.org](http://www.algotwp.org)

September 1, 2020

Michigan House and Ethics Committee

Re: 2020 Election Administration Concerns

I respectfully submit my feedback from the August Primary Election and concerns for November as bullet pointed below:

- My main August Challenge was the possibility of losing the use of one of my polling locations two weeks prior to the election. It is held at the northern complex of the Kent County Road Commission. I had checked in with them months before the election, informing of what our processes would be and the use of all the PPE equipment, etc. They were all good to go then, but then 2 weeks prior to the election tried to back out of allowing us to use the building. Thankfully, I have a very good contract with them and was able to move forward anyway, but November is still up in the air.
- I had plenty of precinct inspectors for August. I always schedule more than I need just in case I lose a couple in the last days leading up to the election date. I anticipate doing the same for November. I am currently finding more people would like to work in the Absentee Counting Board because they do not want to be around many people (voters).
- I am, as I know all other clerks are too, trying to be proactive in getting CORRECT information out to our voters as to their rights to vote absentee. I wish our SOS would do more of the same and would have done so at the beginning instead of going behind our backs and sending out applications to voters. COMMUNICATION is KEY!
- I feel it is the responsibility of the local clerks to send out applications to vote to OUR voters, not the SOS. We know our communities well and would be better apt to clean up our rolls if we had been the ones to send out applications to all of our voters ourselves.
- I have plenty of PPE equipment on hand through what I have purchased for my township and what was provided through the state. However, I did order 10 sneeze guards through the state (grant) that have still not shown up. Instead I received 10 six-foot social distancing signs for the floor and when trying to contact the Bureau about them I get no answer as to why I received them over sneeze guards. BTW, my township was allocated \$3K for this grant and the 10 sneeze guards would have been \$2,999!!!! What a waste of CARES act funding!!!
- My MAIN CONCERN moving toward November is: Processing a large amount of AV's in my office with only 3 people to do so. My township currently has a voter list of approximately 8833 with 3334 on the Permanent AV List now. I definitely see that increasing so just hoping we can keep up. I will be scheduling twice as many people in

my 1 Absent Voter Counting Board to be able to process them all on Election day. (BTW, we have the GS3110 High Speed Scanner from Dominion)

- We could also use help getting the word out to voters regarding the new drop boxes that many jurisdictions have, or have recently installed. The news makes it sound like a voter can drop their ballot off at 'any' drop box. But that is not true! Voters MUST only use their jurisdiction's drop box. I received a Grand Rapids City ballot in August in my drop box and GR received one of mine ON ELECTION DAY! I had to find someone to pick up that ballot for me so that it could be counted. That is not an easy task to do and it also may not be viewed well by the public if they knew we were transporting voted ballots like this on election day!
- It may be of interest to you that we are (as well as all other clerks, I am sure) receiving multiple Voter Applications that were sent to voters from the Center for Voter Information ("CVI"). It is very apparent to me that they are sending them only to democratic voters as my son and husband who are republicans, and not on the Permanent Absent Voter List, have yet to receive them. I also have other republican family members that have yet to receive them and know that some applications we HAVE received are coming in from democratic voters. I know because they are friends of mine. I just find that very interesting and thought you might too since the CVI claims to be non-partisan. Also, the CVI are sending these apps to voters on the in-active list, much like our SOS did prior to the August election. I know this because a voter came in to my office with two forms that went to her household for two people who have not lived there for 8 years.

I hope this information at a minimum helps you understand the frustration clerks around our state are having during this election cycle and that our own SOS and Bureau of Elections has not been helpful as they have been in the past. I am very frustrated with this year's lack of communication and consideration for our authority and responsibility as local clerks.

Very truly yours,



Judy A. Bigney, MiPMC/MMC  
Algoma Township Clerk, Kent County