

# INITIATIVE PETITION AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION

The proposal would amend Article II, Section 4 of the Michigan Constitution of 1963 as follows (language added in capital letters; language deleted struck out with a line):

## §4 Place and manner of elections.

Sec. 4. (1) EVERY CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES WHO IS AN ELECTOR QUALIFIED TO VOTE IN MICHIGAN SHALL HAVE THE FOLLOWING RIGHTS:

- (A) THE RIGHT, ONCE REGISTERED, TO VOTE A SECRET BALLOT IN ALL ELECTIONS.
- (B) THE RIGHT, IF SERVING IN THE MILITARY OR LIVING OVERSEAS, TO HAVE AN ABSENT VOTER BALLOT SENT TO THEM AT LEAST FORTY-FIVE (45) DAYS BEFORE AN ELECTION UPON APPLICATION.
- (C) THE RIGHT, ONCE REGISTERED, TO A "STRAIGHT PARTY" VOTE OPTION ON PARTISAN GENERAL ELECTION BALLOTS. IN PARTISAN ELECTIONS, THE BALLOT SHALL INCLUDE A POSITION AT THE TOP OF THE BALLOT BY WHICH THE VOTER MAY, BY A SINGLE SELECTION, RECORD A STRAIGHT PARTY TICKET VOTE FOR ALL THE CANDIDATES OF ONE (1) PARTY. THE VOTER MAY VOTE A SPLIT OR MIXED TICKET.
- (D) THE RIGHT TO BE AUTOMATICALLY REGISTERED TO VOTE AS A RESULT OF CONDUCTING BUSINESS WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE REGARDING A DRIVER'S LICENSE OR PERSONAL IDENTIFICATION CARD, UNLESS THE PERSON DECLINES SUCH REGISTRATION.
- (E) THE RIGHT TO REGISTER TO VOTE FOR AN ELECTION BY MAILING A COMPLETED VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATION ON OR BEFORE THE FIFTEENTH (15TH) DAY BEFORE THAT ELECTION TO AN ELECTION OFFICIAL AUTHORIZED TO RECEIVE VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATIONS.
- (F) THE RIGHT TO REGISTER TO VOTE FOR AN ELECTION BY (1) APPEARING IN PERSON AND SUBMITTING A COMPLETED VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATION ON OR BEFORE THE FIFTEENTH (15TH) DAY BEFORE THAT ELECTION TO AN ELECTION OFFICIAL AUTHORIZED TO RECEIVE VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATIONS, OR (2) BEGINNING ON THE FOURTEENTH (14TH) DAY BEFORE THAT ELECTION AND CONTINUING THROUGH THE DAY OF THAT ELECTION, APPEARING IN PERSON, SUBMITTING A COMPLETED VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATION AND PROVIDING PROOF OF RESIDENCY TO AN ELECTION OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE FOR MAINTAINING CUSTODY OF THE REGISTRATION FILE WHERE THE PERSON RESIDES, OR THEIR DEPUTIES. PERSONS REGISTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION (1)(F) SHALL BE IMMEDIATELY ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE A REGULAR OR ABSENT VOTER BALLOT.
- (G) THE RIGHT, ONCE REGISTERED, TO VOTE AN ABSENT VOTER BALLOT WITHOUT GIVING A REASON, DURING THE FORTY (40) DAYS BEFORE AN ELECTION, AND THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE WHETHER THE ABSENT VOTER BALLOT IS APPLIED FOR, RECEIVED AND SUBMITTED IN PERSON OR BY MAIL. DURING THAT TIME, ELECTION OFFICIALS AUTHORIZED TO ISSUE ABSENT VOTER BALLOTS SHALL BE AVAILABLE IN AT LEAST ONE (1) LOCATION TO ISSUE AND RECEIVE

ABSENT VOTER BALLOTS DURING THE ELECTION OFFICIALS' REGULARLY SCHEDULED BUSINESS HOURS AND FOR AT LEAST EIGHT (8) HOURS DURING THE SATURDAY AND/OR SUNDAY IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO THE ELECTION. THOSE ELECTION OFFICIALS SHALL HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO MAKE ABSENT VOTER BALLOTS AVAILABLE FOR VOTING IN PERSON AT ADDITIONAL TIMES AND PLACES BEYOND WHAT IS REQUIRED HEREIN.

- (H) THE RIGHT TO HAVE THE RESULTS OF STATEWIDE ELECTIONS AUDITED, IN SUCH MANNER AS PRESCRIBED BY LAW, TO ENSURE THE ACCURACY AND INTEGRITY OF ELECTIONS.

ALL RIGHTS SET FORTH IN THIS SUBSECTION SHALL BE SELF-EXECUTING. THIS SUBSECTION SHALL BE LIBERALLY CONSTRUED IN FAVOR OF VOTERS' RIGHTS IN ORDER TO EFFECTUATE ITS PURPOSES. NOTHING CONTAINED IN THIS SUBSECTION SHALL PREVENT THE LEGISLATURE FROM EXPANDING VOTERS' RIGHTS BEYOND WHAT IS PROVIDED HEREIN. THIS SUBSECTION AND ANY PORTION HEREOF SHALL BE SEVERABLE. IF ANY PORTION OF THIS SUBSECTION IS HELD INVALID OR UNENFORCEABLE AS TO ANY PERSON OR CIRCUMSTANCE, THAT INVALIDITY OR UNENFORCEABILITY SHALL NOT AFFECT THE VALIDITY, ENFORCEABILITY, OR APPLICATION OF ANY OTHER PORTION OF THIS SUBSECTION.

(2) EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED IN THIS CONSTITUTION OR IN THE CONSTITUTION OR LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES the legislature shall enact laws to regulate the time, place and manner of all nominations and elections, ~~except as otherwise provided in this constitution or in the constitution and laws of the United States.~~ The legislature shall enact laws to preserve the purity of elections, to preserve the secrecy of the ballot, to guard against abuses of the elective franchise, and to provide for a system of voter registration and absentee voting. No law shall be enacted which permits a candidate in any partisan primary or partisan election to have a ballot designation except when required for identification of candidates for the same office who have the same or similar surnames.

Provisions of existing constitution altered or abrogated by the proposal if adopted:

## ARTICLE II ELECTIONS

### §4 Place and manner of elections.

Sec. 4. The legislature shall enact laws to regulate the time, place and manner of all nominations and elections, except as otherwise provided in this constitution or in the constitution and laws of the United States. The legislature shall enact laws to preserve the purity of elections, to preserve the secrecy of the ballot, to guard against abuses of the elective franchise, and to provide for a system of voter registration and absentee voting. No law shall be enacted which permits a candidate in any partisan primary or partisan election to have a ballot designation except when required for identification of candidates for the same office who have the same or similar surnames.

INFORMATION ONLY