

# OLDER ADULTS NEED TO KNOW: VOTING RIGHTS PETITION DRIVES

No right is more important than the right to vote and yet the right to vote is constantly under attack by petition drives, legislative actions, and countless other efforts to limit access to available avenues to vote. Currently there are *three petition drives* related to voting that are or will be started in March 2022. It is imperative that if presented with a petition, we read carefully and stay informed of all the issues.

**Do not sign any petition or cast your vote until you have educated yourself.** It is important for you to know what impact petitions (if adopted) will have on voting rights, processes, and access to the ballot. Your right to vote is sacred and needs to be protected and exercised. Here's a brief summary of each petition:

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## MI RIGHT TO VOTE

- Require 2 weekends of in person absentee voting.
- Require at least one drop-off box for absentee voting for every 15,000 registered voters.
- Allow voters to receive absentee ballot applications without requesting them.
- Require the postage of absentee ballots to be prepaid.
- Allow voters to verify identity with photo ID or signature
- Allow officials to prepare for counting absentee ballots within the 7-day period before election day.
- Bar law makers from imposing “an undue burden on the right to vote”.
- Ban laws that restrict contributions to fund elections, record voters, or discriminate “against election challengers”
- Prohibit requirements of voter ID for absentee voting or social security number to register to vote
- Require the legislature to fund elections.



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## PROMOTE THE VOTE



- Allow 9 days of early voting.
- Publicly subsidize absentee ballots and tracking system for a ballot location.
- Allow voters to register for absentee ballots for all future elections.
- Require ballot drop boxes for every 15,000 voters in a municipality.
- Establish that post-election audits can only be conducted by state and local official.

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## SECURE MI VOTE

- Require voter ID for in person voting and absentee ballot application and eliminate an affidavit exemption currently allowed for in person voting without ID.
- Require partial Social Security numbers for voter registration.
- Require voters who don't present ID in person to present it within 6 days after election for the vote to be counted.
- Bar unsolicited absentee ballot applications (no automatic mailings of absentee ballots)
- Ban outside funding for elections and restrict mail-in ballots.
- Provide voters with hardships with free ID funded by a \$3 million state fund.



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## KNOW BEFORE YOU SIGN

It is critical that you understand the different petitions that you may be asked to sign by petition signature collectors. These petitions on the surface may all seem the same but they are not. It is imperative that voters understand and support/sign the petition that they believe will provide the greatest freedom to vote.

If you cannot remember the language of each petition remember the name of the petition you support and when asked to sign be sure it is the one you support.

Learn more about the specifics of each petition at each of these websites:

<https://mirighttovote.com/>

<https://promotethevote2022.com/>

<https://securemivote.org/>



Still Have Questions? Call the Healthier Black Elders Center at 313-664-2616.