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**TO:** The Honorable Detroit City Council

**FROM:** David Whitaker, Director   
Legislative Policy Division Staff

**DATE:** June 6, 2023

**RE: RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF SECRETARY OF STATE JOCELYN BENSON'S  
PROPOSED ELECTIONS BUDGET**

Council President Mary Sheffield requested that the Legislative Policy Division (LPD) draft a resolution urging the Michigan Legislature to approve the elections budget proposed by Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson in order to fully fund the implementation of the Proposal 2 voting measures passed by the voters in November 2022.

Please contact us if we can be of any further assistance.

**BY COUNCIL PRESIDENT MARY SHEFFIELD**

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF SECRETARY OF STATE JOCELYN BENSON’S PROPOSED ELECTIONS BUDGET**

- WHEREAS,** In November of 2022, Michigan voters approved Proposal 2, which is a series of amendments to the Michigan Constitution meant to protect the fundamental right to vote for every eligible voter in Michigan; and
- WHEREAS,** Proposal 2 is a non-partisan effort to make voting more accessible for all Michigan voters while also modernizing the voting process and preserving the integrity of election results; and
- WHEREAS,** To achieve its purpose, Proposal 2 enumerated various changes, including: recognition of the fundamental right to vote, providing for early voting sites up to 9 days before election day, providing for the counting of votes for military personnel and those living overseas if the ballots are postmarked on or before election day, the use of a photo ID or affidavit to verify voter identity, allowing individuals to be placed on a permanent absentee voter list, providing prepaid ballot postage and a state-funded ballot tracking notification system, providing ballot boxes, and providing a fair and transparent method for conducting election audits; and
- WHEREAS,** Recently, Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson proposed a \$177 million elections budget to the Michigan Legislature, with about \$83 million in one-time and ongoing costs meant to ensure the successful implementation of Proposal 2; and
- WHEREAS,** Secretary Benson recently explained to the Detroit News that the most significant contributing factors to the increase in cost are the 9 days of early voting and the additional security, personnel, and technology requirements which make up “about \$50 million of the costs;” and
- WHEREAS,** The state has an obligation to fully fund the implementation of Proposal 2, which is a mandate from Michigan voters and a requirement under the Michigan Constitution; and
- WHEREAS,** In addition to being fundamental rights, voting and access to the ballot are also fundamental to a well-functioning democracy, therefore governments have a responsibility to ensure that the voting process is efficient, secure, transparent, fair, and accurate; and
- WHEREAS,** Without proper funding from the state, the burden of implementing Proposal 2’s extensive mandates will fall onto local clerks and poll workers, which will likely cause delay, disruption, and confusion for voters; and
- WHEREAS,** As Detroit’s legislative body, the Detroit City Council is committed to ensuring that all eligible Detroit residents are able to exercise their right to vote to the fullest extent contemplated by Proposal 2; **NOW THEREFORE BE IT**
- RESOLVED,** The Detroit City Council strongly urges the Michigan Legislature to fully fund the implementation of Proposal 2 in accordance with Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson’s budget request; **THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY**

**RESOLVED,** That the Detroit City Clerk is directed to send this resolution to the Detroit delegations of both the Michigan State House and Senate, in addition to Governor Gretchen Whitmer.