



## CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM

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Date: August 30, 2011

To: The Honorable Mayor and City Council Members

From: John Szerlag, City Manager  
Aileen Bittner, Acting City Clerk

Subject: Resolution #11097 – Oakland County Board of Commissioners – Support for Amending MCL 168-449(3) to Eliminate the Requirement that Local Clerks Send Corrected Voter Identifications Cards Due to Redistricting Resulting from the Decennial Census

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The 2010 Census reported a loss of population for the State of Michigan which triggered a need for redistricting. While the Michigan State Legislature has worked through the redistricting process, the Oakland County Board of Commissioners has decided to support restructuring of some of the local clerks' duties in relation to voting regulations.

MCL 168-449(3) requires local clerks to notify voters of changes in their voter data via a new voter identification card. The amendment that the Oakland County Board of Commissioners supports eliminates this requirement and replaces it with a requirement to simply publish a public notice.

Although, on the face of this amendment, there is a cost savings in printing and mailing, the voter confusion and error may not be worth the minimal money saved. The City Clerk's Office has always held to the practice of mailing corrected voter identification cards whenever any changes to voter data occur. In addition to mailing cards, the City Clerk's Office posts notices of all changes in City Hall, at polling locations on Election Day; and, publishes all changes on the City website, and in the newspaper of record.

The City Clerk's Office will continue to notify voters of any and all changes to voter data with every means available to the City, including mailing corrected voter identification cards. A major function of the City Clerk is to assure that voters have the most up-to-date and accurate information available to them for Election Day, and this function will not be altered.



**Bill Bullard Jr.**  
**Oakland County Clerk/Register of Deeds**  
[www.oakgov.com/clerkrod](http://www.oakgov.com/clerkrod)

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July 12, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

Enclosed please find a certified copy of Miscellaneous Resolution #11097 – Board of Commissioners - Support for Amending MCL 168-449(3) to Eliminate the Requirement that Local Clerks Send Corrected Voter Identification Cards Due to Redistricting Resulting From the Decennial Census which was adopted by the Oakland County Board of Commissioners on July 6, 2011.

As the County Clerk/Register, I have been instructed to provide you with a certified copy of this adopted resolution. Please forward Miscellaneous Resolution #11097 to the appropriate person(s). Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

*Bill Bullard Jr.*

Bill Bullard Jr.  
Clerk/Register of Deeds  
County of Oakland

Enclosure (1)

Administrative Offices  
1200 N Telegraph, Dept 415  
Pontiac MI 48341-0415  
(248) 858-0560  
[clerk@oakgov.com](mailto:clerk@oakgov.com)

Elections Division  
1200 N Telegraph, Dept 417  
Pontiac MI 48341-0417  
(248) 858-0564  
[elections@oakgov.com](mailto:elections@oakgov.com)

Legal & Vital Records  
1200 N Telegraph, Dept 413  
Pontiac MI 48341-0413  
(248) 858-0581  
[clerklegal@oakgov.com](mailto:clerklegal@oakgov.com)

Register of Deeds Office  
1200 N Telegraph, Dept 480  
Pontiac MI 48341-0480  
(248) 858-0605  
[deeds@oakgov.com](mailto:deeds@oakgov.com)

REPORT (MISC. #11097)

July 6, 2011

BY: GENERAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE – Christine Long, Chairperson  
RE: **MR #11097 – BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS – SUPPORT FOR AMENDING MCL 168-449(3) TO ELIMINATE THE REQUIREMENT THAT LOCAL CLERKS SEND CORRECTED VOTER IDENTIFICATION CARDS DUE TO REDISTRICTING RESULTING FROM THE DECENNIAL CENSUS**

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To the Oakland County Board of Commissioners  
Chairperson, Ladies and Gentlemen:

The General Government Committee, having considered the above titled resolution on June 27, 2011 hereby recommends that the resolution be amended as follows.

1. Amend the last WHEREAS:

WHEREAS clerks ~~should be allowed~~ **shall be required** to publish a public notice ~~in a newspaper or within a community newsletter or on their municipal website identifying new districts and offer new cards upon request by the voter.~~

2. Amend the first BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

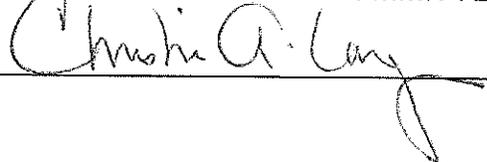
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Oakland County Board of Commissioners recommends that clerks ~~may~~ **shall** publish a public notice of district changes ~~in a newspaper of general circulation.~~

3. Amend the last BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Clerk send a copy of this resolution to the Governor, Secretary of State, and Oakland County State Senators and Representatives, **the Oakland County Board of Commissioners' lobbyists and the Michigan Association of Counties.**

Chairperson, on behalf of the General Government Committee, I recommend acceptance of the foregoing report.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

  
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GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Motion carried on a roll call vote with Gershenson and Nash voting no and Quarles absent.

MISCELLANEOUS RESOLUTION #11097

BY: Commissioner Jeff Matis, District #12

IN RE: BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS - SUPPORT FOR AMENDING MCL 168.499(3) TO  
ELIMINATE THE REQUIREMENT THAT LOCAL CLERKS SEND CORRECTED VOTER  
IDENTIFICATION CARDS DUE TO REDISTRICTING RESULTING FROM THE DECENNIAL  
CENSUS

TO THE OAKLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Chairperson, Ladies and Gentlemen:

WHEREAS Michigan Election Law, MCL 168.499(3), requires that local clerks send a corrected voter identification card to a voter affected by a change in United States Representative, State Senatorial, State Representative, or County Commission District, and

WHEREAS this section further states that the card shall be sent by First Class Mail, and

WHEREAS Michigan municipalities have been advised that the 2010 census shows a reduction in population which will result in the loss of one Congressional seat, and

WHEREAS the state legislature will begin the process of redistricting the entire State of Michigan, and

WHEREAS the redistricting will potentially affect most, if not all, jurisdictions in the State, thereby requiring clerks to send new voter identification cards to all registered voters, and

WHEREAS Michigan's voting age population as of the 2000 census was over 7 million people, with over 1 million voters registered in Oakland County, and

WHEREAS the cost of sending these corrected cards could cost several million dollars state-wide, and

WHEREAS municipalities must budget and provide funding for this mailing adding to the fiscal difficulties communities are facing during a challenging economic time, and

WHEREAS decades ago the voter identification card was one of a few means by which a voter was notified of this information, and

WHEREAS with the widespread use of the internet and the availability of government websites the voter identification card has become less useful for this purpose, and

WHEREAS a voter is not required to use the voter identification card to exercise their right to vote, and

WHEREAS clerks should be allowed to publish a public notice in a newspaper or within a community newsletter or on their municipal website identifying new districts and offer new cards upon request by the voter, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Oakland County Board of Commissioners requests the Michigan State Legislature to consider

amending MCL 168.499(3) to eliminate the requirement that clerks send corrected voter identification cards due to redistricting of United States Representative, State Senatorial, State Representative, or County Commission districts.

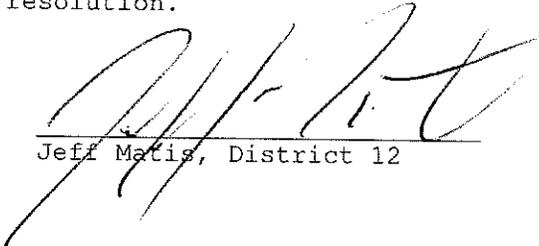
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Oakland County Board of Commissioners recommends that clerks may publish a public notice of district changes in a newspaper of general circulation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Oakland County Board of Commissioners recommends that clerks may provide notice of district changes by community newsletter or their municipal website.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Oakland County Board of Commissioners recommends that clerks be required to send a corrected voter identification card upon request.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Clerk send a copy of this resolution to the Governor, Secretary of State, and Oakland County State Senators and Representatives.

Chairperson, I move the foregoing resolution.

  
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Jeff Matis, District 12

*Shooley Tacob*

Commissioner  
District # 6

*Michael J. Vogel*

Commissioner  
District # 3

*William J. ...*

Commissioner  
District # 14

*Shelley ...*

Commissioner  
District # 5

Commissioner  
District #

Resolution #11097

May 4, 2011

The Chairperson referred the resolution to the General Government Committee. There were no objections.

Resolution #11097

July 6, 2011

Moved by Long supported by Woodward the resolution be adopted.

Moved by Long supported by Woodward the General Government Committee Report be accepted.

A sufficient majority having voted in favor, the report was accepted.

Moved by Long supported by Woodward the resolution be amended to coincide with the recommendation in the General Government Committee Report.

A sufficient majority having voted in favor, the amendment carried.

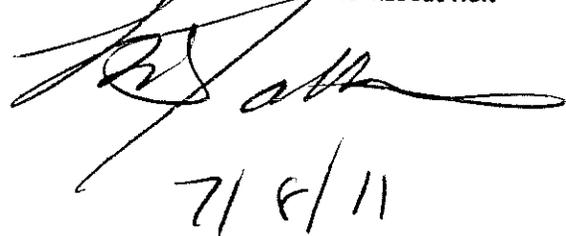
Vote on resolution, as amended:

AYES: Gosselin, Hatchett, Hoffman, Jackson, Long, Matis, McGillivray, Middleton, Nuccio, Potts, Quarles, Scott, Taub, Weipert, Woodward, Zack, Bosnic, Covey, Crawford, Dwyer, Gingell. (21)

NAYS: Greimel, Nash, Gershenson. (3)

A sufficient majority having voted in favor, the resolution, as amended, was adopted.

**I HEREBY APPROVE THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION**



STATE OF MICHIGAN)  
COUNTY OF OAKLAND)

I, Bill Bullard Jr., Clerk of the County of Oakland, do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution is a true and accurate copy of a resolution adopted by the Oakland County Board of Commissioners on July 6, 2011, with the original record thereof now remaining in my office.

In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the County of Oakland at Pontiac, Michigan this 6th day of July, 2011.

*Bill Bullard Jr.*

Bill Bullard Jr., Oakland County