

**D-03 – Resolution for No Reason Absentee Voting  
Suggested Revision Submitted by: Council Member Howrylak**

WHEREAS, The City Council of the City of Troy believes that every opportunity should be provided to encourage voter participation;

WHEREAS, The City of Troy vigilantly advocates for the fundamental rights of voters;

WHEREAS, Michigan Law in some cases forces its residents to choose between going to work or losing their Constitutional right to vote;

WHEREAS, The City of Troy is the home of a major hospital that employs **several many** Troy registered voters who are required to work during the hours the polls are open for voting and are therefore disenfranchised from voting as there is no provision under law for them to vote an Absentee Ballot;

WHEREAS, There are **several** other occupations that routinely require employees to work during the hours that the polls are open, these occupations can include police and fire personnel and other shift workers that work **12-hour days rendering them unavailable during** to such an extent that they are unable to vote during the time the polls are open;

WHEREAS, The City of Troy has many voters whose polling locations are located some distance from their homes and traveling to their precinct on Election Day could be a hardship;

WHEREAS, The statutory reasons for acquiring an Absentee Ballot do not take into account voters without transportation and their inability to travel from their homes to their precincts;

WHEREAS, The unfortunate option available for voters in these circumstances is to **either not vote or to** commit a misdemeanor crime by fraudulently applying for an Absentee Ballot as a means to execute one of their fundamental rights as a United States citizen;

WHEREAS, Voters should be able to vote without being forced to choose between losing their job and committing a misdemeanor crime;

~~WHEREAS, Election Law has several safeguards against voter fraud including the comparison of the registered voter's signature on Absentee Voter Ballot Applications against their signature on the registration record on file in the Clerk's Office; and~~

~~WHEREAS, Voters should have equal and unobstructed access to all possible voting opportunities.~~

Original

WHEREAS, State law was recently enacted to require proof of residence when voting in person and there is a fundamental obligation to respect the intent of this statute when modifying absentee voting requirements; and

WHEREAS, At least 23 states currently allow for form of early voting;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Troy City Council hereby **SUPPORTS** No Reason Absent Voting, provided that this option requires the application be submitted in person at a government facility (i.e. Clerk's office) with requisite proof of residence, and encourages our representatives to do the same; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City of Troy hereby **PETITIONS** the State of Michigan Legislature to adopt legislation providing for no reason absent voting in person at a government facility (i.e. city, village or township hall) and/or a period of early voting, thus assuring ~~which is designed to promote voter participation, increase voter turn-out and assure~~ that the fundamental rights of all voters are not diminished due to unwarranted restrictions in Election Law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That HB 4048 or HB 4134 will accomplish the objectives as set forth above, provided that they are amended to require no reason absent voting to occur in-person at a government facility (i.e. city, village or township hall), and therefore the Troy City Council hereby **ENCOURAGES** our legislators to actively work to amend these bills as noted above and then to actively support the passage of this proposed legislation, if amended as noted here, on behalf of the voters of the City of Troy and the State of Michigan; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, That Troy City Council hereby **DIRECTS** the City Clerk to forward a copy of this resolution to Governor Jennifer Granholm, Secretary of State Terri Lynn Land, Senator John Pappageorge, State Representative Marty Knollenberg, Michigan Municipal League, ~~Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks ListSERV~~ and all surrounding communities.