

# COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

**Manager's Recommendation:** Approval of the resolution as follows:

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF HB NO. 4048 AND HB NO. 4134 TO ENCOURAGE  
THE STATE OF MICHIGAN LEGISLATURE TO ADOPT LEGISLATION  
PROVIDING FOR NO REASON ABSENT VOTING**

Council \_\_\_\_\_ offered and moved adoption of the following resolution:

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

WHEREAS, the City of Saginaw vigilantly advocates for the fundamental right of voters and for equality among all qualified registered voters to choose the method of voting that best suits the voter's lifestyle; and

WHEREAS, there are occupations that routinely require employees to work during the hours that the polls are open, namely hospital employees, public safety officers, first responders, and other shift workers that work to such an extent that it places a hardship on these individuals to vote during the time the polls are open and in some instances disenfranchises these voters from voting; and

WHEREAS, there are voters without transportation who are unable to travel from their homes to their precincts on Election Day; and

WHEREAS, there are individuals who are caregivers who are unable to leave their patients and/or family members to vote during the time the polls are open; and

WHEREAS, the statutory reasons for acquiring an absentee ballot do not take into account any of the foregoing reasons for not being able to attend the polls during the time the polls are open; and

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WHEREAS, to apply for an absentee ballot, many registered voters must “stretch the truth” when they select a reason from the six (6) provided on their application knowing full-well that no reason on the list really applies; and

WHEREAS, the law should not put barriers on voters 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; and

WHEREAS, “No Reason Absent Voting” would allow voters to request absentee ballots without providing specific reason; and

WHEREAS, “No Reason Absent Voting” would encourage greater voter participation in local elections allowing all qualified voters the option of marking and returning their ballot in advance of Election Day if desired; and

WHEREAS, at least twenty-three (23) states currently allow some form of early voting.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Saginaw hereby PETITIONS the State of Michigan Legislature to adopt legislation providing for No Reason Absent Voting; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Saginaw City Council hereby concurs with the City Clerk's recommendation to support passage of HB No. 4048 and HB No. 4134 for No Reason Absent Voting, assuring that the fundamental rights of all voters are not diminished due to unwarranted restrictions in Election Law; and urges our state and federal elected officials and candidates to do the same.