

## **Statement of the American Association of University Women of Michigan Board regarding proposed changes to Michigan's election laws.**

The American Association of University Women supports by policy and practice open and fair elections. We endorse election laws that promote equitable political participation and representation. AAUW advocates for vigorous enforcement of and full access to civil and constitutional rights, including expanding voting rights.

In consideration of these policy positions, the AAUW of Michigan supports making permanent some of the emergency voting measures undertaken in the 2020 elections due to the global COVID-19 pandemic. Michigan had record turn-out of voters in an election that was fairly and accurately conducted according to many subsequent lawsuits, reviews, evaluations, and audits.

While election law must balance security with accessibility, we are concerned that approximately 30 percent of registered voters chose not to participate in the November 2020 elections. That problem should be the top priority for lawmakers in Michigan rather than proposals to erect more barriers to wide voter participation.

We oppose measures that would restrict convenient in-person or absentee voting. We oppose measures that would make it more difficult for American citizens and Michigan residents to register to vote, obtain a ballot or cast a ballot. We oppose measures that would weaken the ability to fairly count and certify election results. We urge lawmakers to cast aside their party affiliation and support only those election law changes that would enhance the prospect of wide voter participation in secure and fair elections.

*Adopted 4/22/21*