

**BY COUNCIL MEMBER GABRIELA SANTIAGO-ROMERO
RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF LOCAL DEMOCRACY**

WHEREAS, The right to vote is fundamental to our democracy, and the State of Michigan has a strong history of protecting that right while ensuring elections are secure, fair, and accessible for more than seven million active registered voters; and

WHEREAS, Michigan voters overwhelmingly approved pro-voter constitutional and statutory reforms in 2018 and 2022, expanding access to same-day voter registration, no-excuse absentee voting, and in-person early voting; and

WHEREAS, Michigan's election system has received national recognition for its integrity and accessibility, earning an A+ grade in the Institute for Responsive Government's Election Progress Report in both 2023 and 2024; and

WHEREAS, State and federal law already prohibit non-citizens from voting in Michigan elections, and existing safeguards ensure the security and integrity of the voter registration and election process; and

WHEREAS, An out-of-state special interest group is currently circulating a ballot proposal that would impose documentary proof of citizenship requirements, including requiring voters to present a birth certificate, passport, or other documents that citizens often face difficulty accessing such as tribal or military identification cards to prove their citizenship; and

WHEREAS, Research indicates that nearly 700,000 Michiganders do not possess or do not have easy access to the documents that would be required under these proposals, with disproportionate impacts on married women, rural voters, low-income voters, people with disabilities, and older adults; and **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**

RESOLVED, That the Detroit City Council hereby opposes any ballot proposal or legislative effort that would impose documentary proof of citizenship requirements or otherwise create unnecessary barriers to voter registration and participation for eligible Michigan voters. We affirm our support for Michigan's existing election laws and constitutional provisions that have made the state a national leader in fair, secure, and accessible elections; and **NOW, BE IT FURTHER**

RESOLVED, That the Detroit City Council calls on state leaders to reject policies driven by out-of-state interests that would undermine voter access and instead to protect the right to vote for all eligible Michiganders. We encourage voters to exercise care and seek full information about the potential consequences of ballot initiatives that would impose documentary proof of citizenship requirements prior to signing any petition or supporting such measures; and **NOW, BE IT FINALLY**

RESOLVED, That the Detroit City Clerk's Office provide a copy of this resolution to Governor Gretchen Whitmer, the Michigan Secretary of State, and the Detroit delegations of both the Michigan State House and Senate, in addition to Wayne County Commissioners.