

Draft Written Public Comment

Good afternoon Council Members,

My name is Angela Davenport, and I am the Executive Director of Voting Access For All Coalition.

I am writing today to urge you to consider how the decisions before you impact who is able to fully participate in our democracy and who continues to be pushed to the margins.

Every day, our organization works with Detroiters who are navigating housing instability, reentry after incarceration, low wages, unreliable utilities, and limited access to basic services. These are the same residents who are most affected when policies are made without community input and without considering real life barriers.

When people are worried about keeping the lights on, keeping a roof over their heads, or surviving day to day, civic engagement becomes harder. Not because people do not care, but because systems make participation more difficult for those already carrying the heaviest burdens.

That is why Voting Access For All Coalition brings voter education, leadership development, and civic navigation directly into shelters, reentry programs, community centers, and neighborhoods that have historically been overlooked. We meet people where they are and remind them that their voices matter and that their vote is connected to their daily lives.

It is connected to their housing.

It is connected to their bills.

It is connected to their health.

It is connected to their children's future.

The issue before you today is not just a policy question. It is a question of values. It is about whether Detroit will lead with equity, transparency, and accountability or whether we will allow barriers to continue silencing the people who built this city.

I urge this Council to stand on the side of access, dignity, and community power.

By supporting policies that remove barriers and center residents, Detroit sends a clear message across Michigan that our city will not support practices that silence eligible voters or exclude working families from decision making.

Our vote is our power.

Our voices are our strength.

And our communities deserve leadership that reflects that truth.

I ask you to vote in a way that honors the people you serve and the future we are trying to build together.

Thank you for your time and for your commitment to the people of Detroit.

Respectfully,

Angela Davenport

Executive Director

Voting Access For All Coalition