

MML Summary of Bill Positions from 2021 Senate Elections Package, 4/27/2021

*This list includes select bills from the 39-bill Senate Elections Package. MML members seeking bill position on legislation not included in this selection are advised to reference the Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks.

Bill	Description	MML Position
SB 273	Provides regulation of absent voter ballot drop boxes.	Oppose , this bill would require unneeded oversight on the placement of ballot drop boxes. The additional requirement to monitor ballot boxes with video surveillance is an unnecessary funding obligation for local units of government.
SB 274	Provides preregistration to vote at age 16.	Support
SB 275	Authorizes use of video recording devices to record election audit proceedings and allows live video coverage of the tabulation of ballots.	Oppose , allowing citizens to record election proceedings on personal devices is a breach privacy and security. While not opposed to the recording of audit proceedings, any recording should be done objectively and in a secured and standardized process.
SB 276	Authorizes election inspectors, election challengers, and poll watchers photographing and videotaping the tabulating of votes.	Oppose , same reasoning as above.
SB 278	Modifies collection procedures for absent voter ballots deposited in an absent voter ballot drop box.	Support in Concept , this could be an opportunity establish unified best practices; however, it is unnecessary for this to be applied to drop boxes within the municipal complex.
SB 279	Modifies collection procedures for absent voter ballots deposited in an absent voter ballot drop box.	Support in Concept . We are open to improving this process, but this is not the best method to do so. This would



		<p>establish difficult ratios of election challengers to poll workers. Modifications should be made- not consideration of how many ballots there are, but how many workers are available to appropriate balance.</p>
SB 282	Limits access to the qualified voter file.	Oppose , clerks rely on their staff to assist them in making necessary changes and corrections to the QVF file.
SB 283	Authorizes pre-processing of absent voter ballots.	Support in concept , minimally helpful, but does not add as much effectiveness as full tabulation of ballots ahead of election day. We would support with the elimination of the 25,000 population threshold and expanded ability to fully tabulate ballots.
SB 284	Prohibits receipt of private money to be used for election related activities and election related equipment and requires the secretary of state to report to the legislature on contracts for election related activities.	Oppose , we disagree with the premise and purpose for this bill. We would like to see all elections fully funded. This would broadly eliminate grants and financial support that assists local units in purchasing equipment, materials and other needed elections resources. The language is broad enough to be interpreted in the most extreme context to limit donations of food and other in-kind items.
SB 285	Requires identification for election purposes to obtain an absent voter ballot and requires a provisional ballot be issued to absent voters without identification for election purpose.	Oppose , this is unnecessary and duplicative to the existing process. Local units would incur additional costs to local units to send return envelopes to gather information that is already on file with the QVF. This could cause a breach of identity by sharing personal information in the

We love where you live.



		mail. This approach may also delay election results.
SB 286	Provides for deadline to submit absent voter ballots to an absent voter ballot drop box.	Oppose , drop boxes are a highly popular method of ballot submission. Municipalities reported remittance rates of over 70% from ballot drop boxes, and increased volume of ballots returned 24% before Election Day. There is no legitimate reason to limit how a voter may submit their ballot before 8pm on Election Day. Extra traffic will overwhelm already high-volume clerk counters. Many drop boxes are in or near city hall, police and fire stations and election centers – all secure locations.
SB 287	Prohibits prepaid postage on absent voter ballot return envelopes	Oppose , this is unnecessary and excessive overreach on a decision that should be entirely up to local communities. Providing postage enhances security because it better ensure ballots are returned.
SB 300	Provides for early voting.	Support in Concept , this could be difficult to implement in communities of smaller size. Communities should be able to opt-in.
SB 303	Requires issuing a provisional ballot to an elector who does not have identification for election purposes.	Oppose , this is unnecessary as the current process is sufficiently addresses how to accommodate eligible voters without ID.
SB 304	Requires voter burden of proof for provisional ballot verification.	Oppose , reasoning above.
SB 305	Prohibits publication of the name or likeness of the secretary of state, a county clerk, or a local clerk on a communication related to certain election activities.	Oppose , as written, this bill is far too excessive and limits credible information sharing from the local

We love where you live.



		election administrator and fosters the spread of misinformation.
SB 307	Requires providing the full text of a ballot proposal to a voter or absent voter.	Oppose , there are other available methods for voters to request full ballot proposal text. This will only unnecessarily lengthen the ballot, lengthen voting timelines, and add additional costs on local units. The state's elections website is comprehensive enough to obtain needed information.
SB 310	Provides prohibition for secretary of state from sending or providing absent voter ballot applications to electors.	Oppose , the SOS is the most equipped to uniformly send absentee ballot applications and comprehensive election information to Michigan electors.

Questions? Contact Herasanna Richards at hrichards@mml.org or 517-881-2800.

