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Senate Bill 570 (as introduced 10-10-23)
Sponsor: Senator Mallory McMorrow
Committee: Elections and Ethics

(Senate-passed version)

Date Completed: 10-11-23

CONTENT

The bill would amend the Michigan Election Law to prohibit a county clerk from conducting an election audit if the clerk served as an officer, member, or precinct delegate of a political party. Instead, the clerk would have to appoint a designee.

After each election, the Secretary of State (SOS) may audit election precincts. The Law requires the SOS and county clerks to conduct these election audits as prescribed; however, the bill would prohibit a county clerk from having any role in the direction, supervision, or conduct of an election audit if that clerk were an officer or member of the governing body of a national, State, or local political party, or was a precinct delegate of a political party. Instead, the county clerk would have to appoint a designee to conduct any election audit in that county. A designee could not be an officer, member, or precinct delegate of the governing body of a national, State, or local political party.

MCL 168.31a

BACKGROUND

In July 2022, Promote the Vote, a coalition of Michigan organizations active in elections, circulated a petition proposing several constitutional amendments concerning voting rights. Among other amendments, the petition included a provision prohibiting an officer or member of the governing board of a national, State, or local political party, and a political party precinct delegate, from having any role in an election audit.¹ Promote the Vote submitted the petition to the Michigan Bureau of Elections after gathering enough signatures for the ballot initiative that became Proposal 22-2. Proposal 22-2 passed with 59.99% of the vote during the 2022 November general election.²

Legislative Analyst: Abby Schneider

FISCAL IMPACT

The bill would have no fiscal impact on State or local government.

Fiscal Analyst: Joe Carrasco, Jr.
Bobby Canell

¹ "November 2022 Ballot Proposal 22-2," Senate Fiscal Agency.

² "2022 Michigan Election results," Elections, Michigan Department of State. Retrieved on 4- 11-23.

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This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan Senate staff for use by the Senate in its deliberations and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.