



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF BRIGHTON

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March 24, 2020

Governor Whitmer
George W. Romney Building
111 South Capitol Avenue
Lansing, Michigan 48909

Dear Governor Whitmer,

I am very concerned with the lack of action shown to elections in your Executive Orders, specifically yesterdays. I understand there is much going on that requires your attention but many Michigan Clerks and our staff feel we're being left out to dry.

Yesterday, you spoke of your Executive Order's, "**Temporary requirement to suspend activities that are not necessary to sustain or protect life**". We have an election to administer on May 5th that would require ourselves and our staff to work 40 plus hours a week leading up to election day. Processing 2x the amount of AV applications and ballots than any previous election (other offices processing over 4x). This is troubling because we will be in close contact with each other in our offices as well as the AV counting boards processing mail from around the township, state, country and foreign countries. These mailings have the potential to carry COVID-19 for over 24 hours. Additionally, we have yet to receive clarification if the precinct locations would be closed and the cost of the election is rising daily. Obviously, a concern that echoes across the state and others have postponed due to health concerns.

Going forward with the May election is even more troubling because of what is on the ballot, a request for a new bonding proposal for Hartland Consolidated Schools. It is my understanding that the current school millage is still good through the end of the year. Although there are other options still available to the school district, they choose **not to postpone** the ballot question until a safer/healthier time. The May election moving forward is a contradiction to the executive order you put in place. I would urge you to cancel the May election or at the very least, remove all ballot questions that are **not necessary to sustain or protect life**.

Thank you for your time and consideration. If the election continues, we will do our very best to overcome the obstacles ahead with professionalism and dedication.

Sincerely,

Joseph R. Riker
Clerk, Brighton Township