

A loophole to rig our elections and deny our freedom to vote. How the MI GOP will make it harder for millions to vote in 2022 with **only 3.4% support.**

Michigan voters are facing a unique and severe threat. Thanks to a legal loophole, the GOP can pass extreme anti-voter laws supported by just 340,047 of the 10 million people in the state -- and **Democratic Gov. Gretchen Whitmer can't stop them.**

In 2018, by a 2-to-1 margin, Michigan voters approved a constitutional amendment to expand voting rights, including no-reason absentee voting. In 2020, voters in record numbers cast our ballots freely, safely, and securely. 250 official audits show that the election was the most secure and successful in the state's history.

But now, in lockstep with anti-voter efforts in other swing states like GA, AZ & PA, MI Senate Republicans are pushing a sweeping, anti-voter package of 39 bills that will disproportionately impact voters of color and young voters by adding restrictions on absentee voting and drop boxes. Gov. Whitmer has made it clear that any bills that **"are aimed at making it harder for people to vote ... will get vetoed."**

If the Governor is going to veto anti-voter bills, why do we need to take action?

On March 25, Michigan Republican Party Chairman Ron Weiser defiantly announced that Republicans will pursue a blatant, anti-democratic strategy to get around the Governor's veto:



"If it's not signed by the governor, then we have other plans to make sure that it becomes law before 2022. That plan includes taking that legislation and getting the signatures necessary for a legislative initiative so it can become law without Gretchen Whitmer's signature."

MICHIGAN REPUBLICAN PARTY CHAIRMAN RON WEISER

Michigan's Constitution allows a controversial procedure where, if Republicans can collect 340,047 signatures through a petition drive, the House and Senate can enact the voter suppression laws without the Governor having the power to veto it. The mechanism is called the "indirect initiative statute." With a population of 10 million residents in the state, that means **Republicans need to gather signatures from just 3.4% of the population to make it harder for all voters to exercise our Constitutional right to vote.**

We can stop them. Voters Not Politicians is building a massive volunteer program to engage hundreds of thousands of people in Michigan to take direct, pro-voter action to stop this anti-voter effort in its tracks.

Public Voter Suppression Scenario:

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Step 1:

Senate and House pass some combination of 39-bill anti-voter package

Spring 2021



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Step 2:

Governor Whitmer vetoes bills

Spring 2021



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Step 3:

Michigan Republicans and aligned nonprofits and ballot committees use the “Indirect Initiative Statute” process to circumvent the Governor; seek to collect 340,047 signatures in a short amount of time. Lansing rumors suggest that the “Unlock Michigan” data collection schemes are in the service of building the list for this effort

Summer/Fall 2021



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Step 4:

Once 340,047 signatures are collected and certified by the Board of State Canvassers, the anti-voter legislation goes back to the Republican-controlled Michigan House and Senate, passing out of both chambers with a **simple majority and taking effect before the 2022 general election**

Fall 2021

(Legislature has 40 days after petition signatures are certified by the Board of State Canvassers)

Notes & Resources:

Mich. Const. Art. II sec. 9: Indirect initiated state statute:

- > An indirect initiated state statute goes to the legislature after a successful signature drive. The legislature has the option of approving the initiative themselves, rather than the initiative appearing on the ballot.

Signatures needed: 8 percent of the votes cast for governor (340,047)

- > If the state legislature adopts the law, then it does not go to the ballot and it is not subject to veto by the governor.

MLive: Whitmer, Gilchrist & liberal activists prepping to fight Republican voting bills, potential petitions

- > Michigan Republican Party Chair Ron Weiser confirmed plans for a petition drive last week during a speech to the North Oakland Republican Club, saying it would only happen should Whitmer veto the Senate package.
- > Ron Weiser says it himself:
<https://www.facebook.com/paul.taros/videos/5216325655076505>
- > To place a petition for a new valid law on the 2022 ballot, Republicans would have to collect more than 340,000 signatures.

Major news headlines

- > **Bridge Detroit:** Detroit organizers call GOP legislation a 'desperate' attempt to limit voting
- > **The Daily Mining Gazette:** Voting bills not helping
- > **MLive:** Democrats challenge 'easier to vote' pitch in Senate GOP election package
- > **Michigan Advance:** After months of hearings airing 2020 election conspiracies, Republicans drop big voter restriction package
- > **MLive:** Michigan Senate GOP debuts election reforms critical of Secretary of State's handling of November election
- > **Bridge Michigan:** Michigan GOP unveils election 'reforms.' Most would make voting harder.
- > **Detroit Free Press:** Michigan GOP senators file 39 election reform bills Democrats call racist, based on lies