



# Ann Arbor compromises election integrity during 2022 Election

City Clerk shows favoritism, registers students and accepts votes on Nov. 9 for Nov. 8 election, allows in-city re-registrations, and electioneering on University of Michigan campus.



July 2023

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## ABOUT THE INVESTIGATORS AND WRITERS

**Bill Richardson**, lead investigator and author, currently serves as Vice Chair of Pure Integrity Michigan Elections and leads the PIME Legislative Committee. He has a master’s degree in mechanical engineering from Michigan Technological University and retired recently after a 30-year career in the automotive Industry.

**Dee Davey**, investigator, is a services marketing professional, gifted with an ability to see the big picture and manage complex details. She chairs the Washtenaw Election Integrity Task Force under the umbrella of Michigan Fair Elections.

**Elizabeth Ayoub**, editor, started her career working for an international company, transitioned into teaching French and Latin while her children were young, and then became a Michigan attorney. She resides in St. Johns.

**Judi Bennett**, investigator, was a contractor to Ford Motor Company and applied her extensive skills in Microsoft Excel for data analysis.

**Louis Avallone**, investigator, serves as a PIME Board Member and assists various investigations promoting transparency in Michigan elections. His past experiences include 25 years as an automotive industry control system engineer focused on developing vehicle efficiency and emissions control strategies.

**Patrice Johnson**, editor, chairs MFE and PIME. The former teacher has founded five successful companies and served as senior executive with a Fortune 100 technology company. Patrice authored the book, the *Fall and Rise of Tyler Johnson*, is the basis of a documentary film that aired nationwide on PBS in 2022.

## INTRODUCTION

This report, *Ann Arbor Compromises Election Integrity during 2022 Election*, analyzes anomalies and apparent violations of Michigan Compiled Law (MCL) and federal law. It is organized into the following four categories:

### I. **Late ballots. Late voter registrations.**

- A. Six hundred (600) ballots were cast and counted in the November 8, 2022, election from residents who registered and voted after the polls closed on November 8
- B. One hundred twenty (120) of these late registrations occurred on November 9.

### II. **Discriminatory registration and voting practices.** The two satellite clerk offices were located in a discriminatory and partisan manner.

### III. **Illegal re-registrations.**

- A. One hundred eighty (180) voters were allowed to re-register and vote from precincts within the city jurisdiction.
- B. The delays and long lines that resulted from unlawful re-registrations amounted to voter suppression.

### IV. **Electioneering.** The distribution of free pizzas, water, hot cocoa, and blankets as enticements for people to wait in line and vote was a violation of electioneering laws.

## **How this report came about.**

In the days before the 2022 election, two satellite voter registration offices appeared in the City of Ann Arbor on the University of Michigan's campuses. Election clerks in the state have the option to engage in get-out-the-vote (GOTV) registration activities. The law requires election administrators who choose to perform GOTV activities to follow unbiased and equitable practices throughout their jurisdictions. In what might be considered a blatant demonstration of bias toward students, the Ann Arbor City clerk placed the satellite sites solely and exclusively on the University of Michigan campuses.

On November 8, as results of the 2022 election in Michigan began to be posted, media headlines reported hours-long waits in lines to register and vote at the U-M campus. Election law limits precincts to a maximum of 2,999 registered voters, and precincts are staffed and funded to process voters efficiently and prevent line wait times from becoming a form of voter suppression.

Newscasters pictured students in queue, receiving pizzas, blankets, and drinks. Providing enticements to vote is electioneering, and election law prohibits this practice.

Reports indicated that state-level election officials had dispatched a computer programmer to adjust Ann Arbor's voting systems. The purpose? To count ballots that were cast in the early

morning hours of November 9 for the election that closed on November 8 at 8:00 p.m. If true, people were registering and voting on November 9, the day *after* the legal deadline to close the election.

People may not register and vote after 8 p.m., nor may they vote absentee after 8 p.m. Only registered voters who are standing in line at 8 p.m. at an in-person polling place with a tabulator may cast eligible ballots. To vote in person, a voter must personally feed their ballot into a tabulator. The clerk satellite offices were places where people could register to vote and receive an absentee ballot. The satellite sites were not polling places with tabulators. No one could vote in person at a satellite office.

### **What was going on in the City of Ann Arbor at the University of Michigan?**

Volunteers from Pure Integrity Michigan Elections (PIME) and Michigan Fair Elections Institute (MFE) investigated. Over the next seven months, they gathered open-source (publicly available) documents and submitted Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests. They reviewed the state's official voter records, called the Qualified Voter File.

Talented citizen investigators obtained voter registration information from the Ann Arbor City Clerk's office, which was helpful during the process. They gathered and studied electronic poll book information. They analyzed the complete voter registration list of same day registrants in order to understand the total number of people who registered on election day and, as it turned out, the day after the election.

Citizens for various walks of life, including engineers, auditors, teachers, and analysts—interviewed clerks and studied Michigan and Federal law. They reviewed tabulator tapes for all 53 City of Ann Arbor precincts, including in-person and absentee voter records.

Voter history records provided time stamps as to when voters were registered. These records enabled the investigators to determine how many voters were registered and allowed to vote absentee (unlawfully) after the 8:00 p.m. deadline.

Throughout the process, investigators documented significant violations of law.

### **Guiding principles**

PIME and MFE agree that all eligible voters should be encouraged and allowed to vote. Every legitimate ballot should count one time per election. The United States, as a constitutional republic, was designed to protect individual freedoms and the unalienable rights of every human being.

Each person's vote is their voice. They have a fundamental right to vote in elections administered in a fair and non-discriminatory manner. Election laws were created to protect voter rights and ensure the integrity of the electoral process, so every election should be conducted in a fair and honest manner in accordance with the law.



Failure to uphold and apply the law in an equal and impartial manner undermines elections in a number of ways.

1. Each ineligible vote cancels one eligible vote.
2. The unlawful processing of ineligible ballots or voter registrations suppresses legitimate voters.
3. Violations of election law undermine public trust in our elections.

## I. LATE BALLOTS. LATE VOTER REGISTRATIONS.



Michigan Compiled Law 168.731(3) states, "a person may apply in person at the clerk's office before 8 p.m. on election day to vote as an absentee voter." It is a violation of law to vote absentee after the 8 p.m. deadline.

However, time-stamped, voter history records show that more than 600 individuals, mainly students at U-M satellite registration offices, were registered to vote absentee after the 8 p.m. election day deadline. Of these late registrants, 120 registered to vote and cast

absentee ballots on the day after the election, November 9, 2022.

These ineligible ballots were counted.

The image below shows official voter records obtained through FOIA. The falsification of records implies an admission of guilt. To falsify records is illegal.

## Voter History File shows a November 9 registration for the November 8 Election

12/16/2022

**CHANGE HISTORY FOR**  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] ST 4405 ANN ARBOR MI 48109

Description	Date / Time	User Code
LICENSE NUMBER CHANGED from NONE to [REDACTED]	11/9/2022 1:42:08 AM	CARS
REGISTERED on 11/8/2022 as [REDACTED] at [REDACTED] ST 4405 ANN ARBOR MI 48109	11/9/2022 1:41:10 AM	STRODTBECKJ03000
<b>Total 2</b>		

Is this falsification of records by the clerk?

History file shows the voter was registered on November 8th.

Time stamp shows the voter was actually registered at 1:41 AM on November 9th.

The example above is but one example of more than 600 time-stamped voter history records showing registrants who were registered to vote after the November 8, 8:00 p.m. deadline. Of the 600, 120 voter records were time stamped after midnight on the morning of November 9, 2022.

### Clerk and clerk satellite offices versus polling locations

[MCL 168.663](#) states that polling places are the in-person voting locations “in which the election officials, challengers, voting machines or ballot boxes and voting booths, and persons in the actual process of voting, are located.” (<http://legislature.mi.gov/doc.aspx?mcl-168-663>.)

In other words, in-person voting occurs only in polling places. When a person feeds their ballot into a tabulator and the vote is counted in their presence, then—and only then—have they voted in person.

In contrast, clerks’ offices and their satellite offices are not in-person polling places. They set up in separate areas from the polling locations and are voter registration sites. They do not have tabulators. Eligible but unregistered individuals may register to vote at the clerk’s office. They may pick up an absentee ballot at a clerk’s office. Often, drop boxes are nearby, allowing voters to deposit their absentee ballot in an approved secrecy sleeve before the 8 p.m. deadline. But no one votes in person at a clerk’s office.

Michigan election law does not allow the receipt of absentee ballots after 8 p.m. on election day. Neither does the law allow a person to register to vote after 8 p.m. on election day. Anyone registering to vote after 8 p.m. at the clerk’s office may vote in future elections. They may not, however, vote in the most recent election because they missed the deadline.

## SOS Benson issued erroneous guidance.

At 6:19 p.m. on November 8, Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson tweeted erroneous guidance.

Whether you're at your precinct in line to vote or at your local clerk's office in line to register and vote, as long as you are in line by 8p you can still register and vote.

Election administrators and voters who followed the Secretary's guidance violated the law.

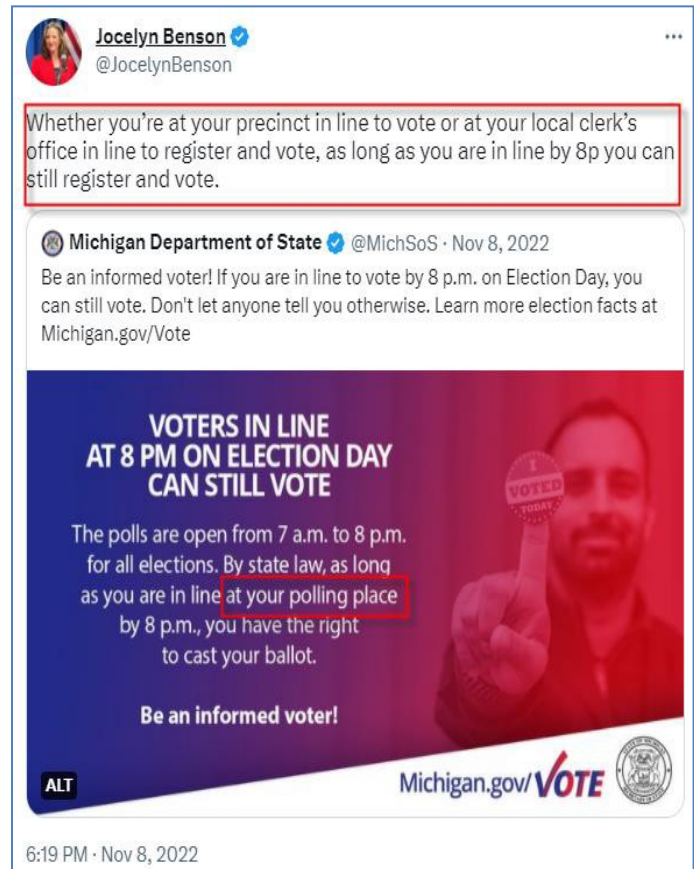
## II. DISCRIMINATORY AND PARTISAN PRACTICES

Election clerks have the option to open satellite clerk offices in order to offer voters increased convenience to register and vote absentee. At all times, however, clerks must follow Michigan Compiled Law and Federal laws, which require them to treat all constituents equally and in a non-discriminatory manner.

Any State program or activity to protect the integrity of the electoral process...shall: (1) be uniform and nondiscriminatory.

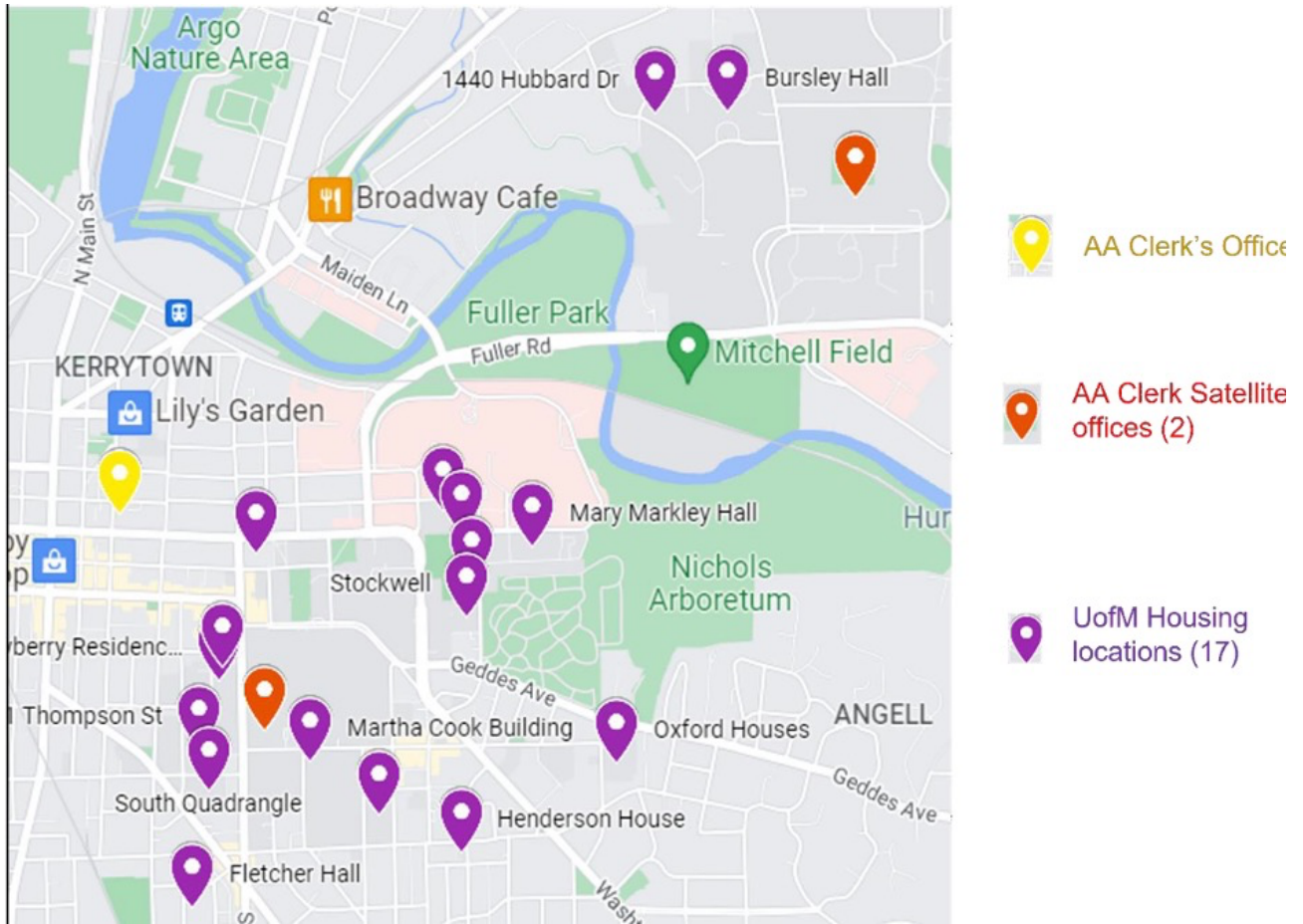
--[National Voter Registration Act \(NVRA\) SEC. 8\(b.\)](#)

The figure below depicts all 17 U-M housing locations, the clerk's office, and the two satellite clerk offices established on the U-M campuses.



**“Whether you’re at your precinct in line to vote or at your local clerk’s office in line to register and vote, as long as you are in line by 8p you can still register and vote.” Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson’s tweet is misleading and contrary to Michigan law. Further down in the fine print, her tweet contradicts itself, stating, “at your polling place” and “you have a right to cast your ballot.”**

## U-M Housing Locations and Clerk Satellite Office

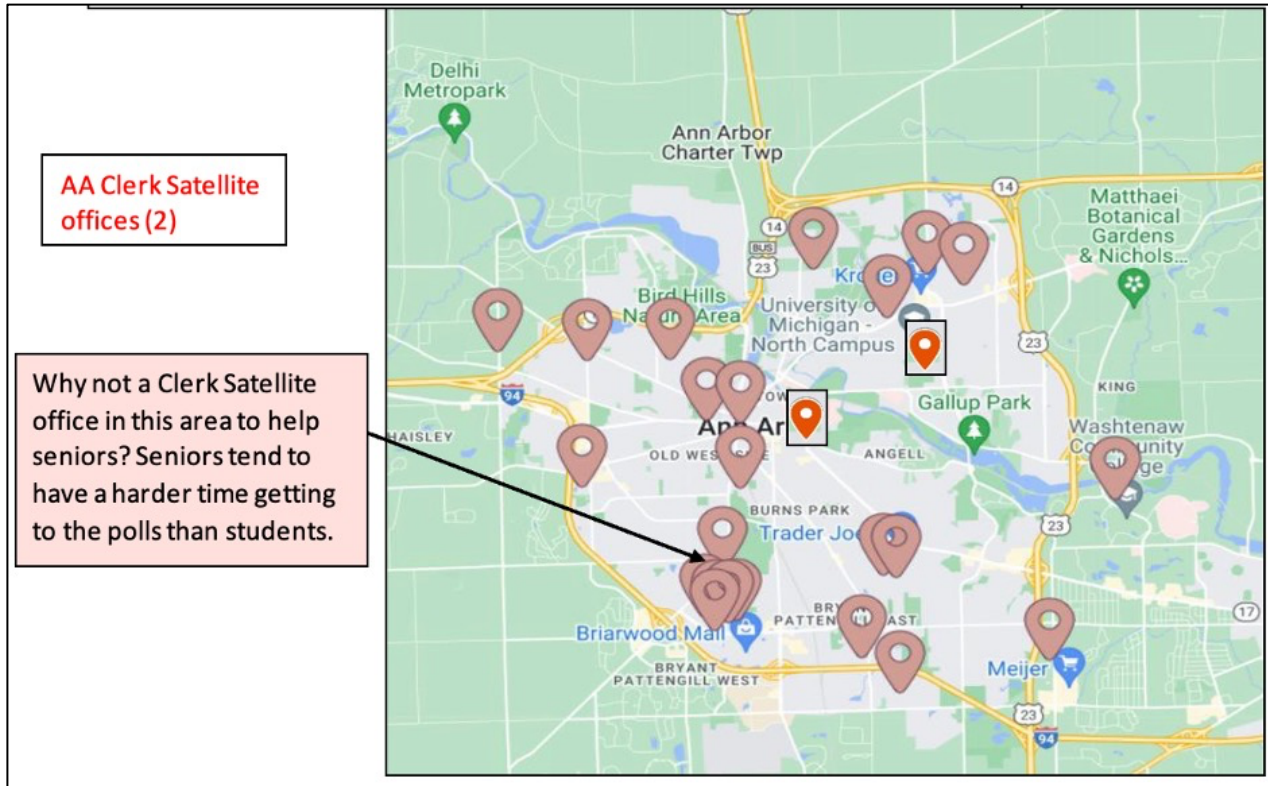


Satellite offices were placed in such a way as to target university students in student housing communities.

Readers will note that, of Ann Arbor's 23 largest senior living centers, a significant cluster is situated in the southwest corner of the city near the Briarwood Mall.



## Ann Arbor: Senior Centers vs. Satellite Registration Offices.



Of the 23 largest senior living centers in Ann Arbor, a significant cluster is situated in the southwest corner of the city near the Briarwood Mall. Senior citizens tend to have more difficulty driving or walking than 20-year-old college students have, yet no satellite registration offices were placed near them to accommodate their greater need.

The placement of the two satellite offices depicted above benefited university students in student housing communities. However, no satellite offices were placed within close proximity to senior citizen living centers, whose large numbers of residents would tend to have greater difficulty reaching election locations.

In favoring students over other demographic groups, the city clerk acted in a discriminatory manner.

According to data published on the Ann Arbor Clerk’s website, precincts containing at least one U-M student housing complex voted 94.7% for the Democratic candidate for governor in the November 2022 election. Considering this propensity to vote for one party, the placement of the satellite offices begs the question: Were the locations selected for partisan reasons?

Regardless of the Ann Arbor city clerk’s motivations, when she ignored the largest concentrations of residential facilities for senior citizens and when she, instead, chose to place the two satellite clerk offices on the University of Michigan’s two campuses, she failed to administer her jurisdiction’s election in a “uniform and non-discriminatory” manner.

## **Partisan overreach**

Political parties are lawfully allowed to rally voter support for candidates and conduct get-out-the-vote activities on a partisan basis. Government officials, nonprofit organizations, and public universities, however, are required to act in a nonpartisan manner. Election clerks are government officials, so are required to perform their duties in a nonpartisan manner.

The prohibition on partisan election administration exists for good reasons: 1) The government is funded through taxpayer dollars, 2) government officials wield inordinate power, and 3) unrestrained governments have a history of becoming tyrannical. Likewise, public universities and nonprofit 501(C)(3) organizations, due to their taxpayer funding and tax-free status, are required to act in a non-partisan manner.

## **III. UNLAWFUL RE-REGISTRATIONS**

--180 illegal re-registrations on election day and into the early hours of Nov. 9, the day *after* election day

Try to re-register to vote or obtain an absentee ballot too close to an election, and your friendly local clerk will send you packing to your correct precinct. Fourteen (14) days before election day, Michigan law closes the door to changing registrations within a person's voting jurisdiction. Municipal and township clerks across the state abide by the law as standard procedure.

However, official state records (cross referencing the same day registrant list with an earlier QVF file) show that the Ann Arbor City clerk ignored the law prohibiting re-registrations within the same jurisdiction in at least 180 instances on election day and into the early hours of November 9, 2022. Of the 180 re-registrants, roughly 150, or 83 percent, re-registered at one of the two U-M campus satellite offices.

## **Voter suppression**

Unlawful re-registers at campus satellite locations caused massive delays and created long lines. Eligible voters who saw the lines on the local news or came to vote no doubt felt discouraged at the hours' long waits. It is impossible to estimate how many gave up on voting and went home.

The Ann Arbor officials' failure to abide by the law had the effect of denying eligible voters their right to vote. This failure amounted to voter suppression.



[Hours-long lines on University of Michigan campus as students scramble to vote](#)

Published: Nov. 08, 2022, 7:55 p.m.



Hundreds of University of Michigan students waited in line for hours to register to vote at the Ann Arbor city clerk's satellite office at the UM Museum of Art on Election Night, Nov. 8, 2022. Many students huddled in donated blankets and were served donated pizza and hot cocoa as temperatures dropped below 45 degrees. Image source: MLive.

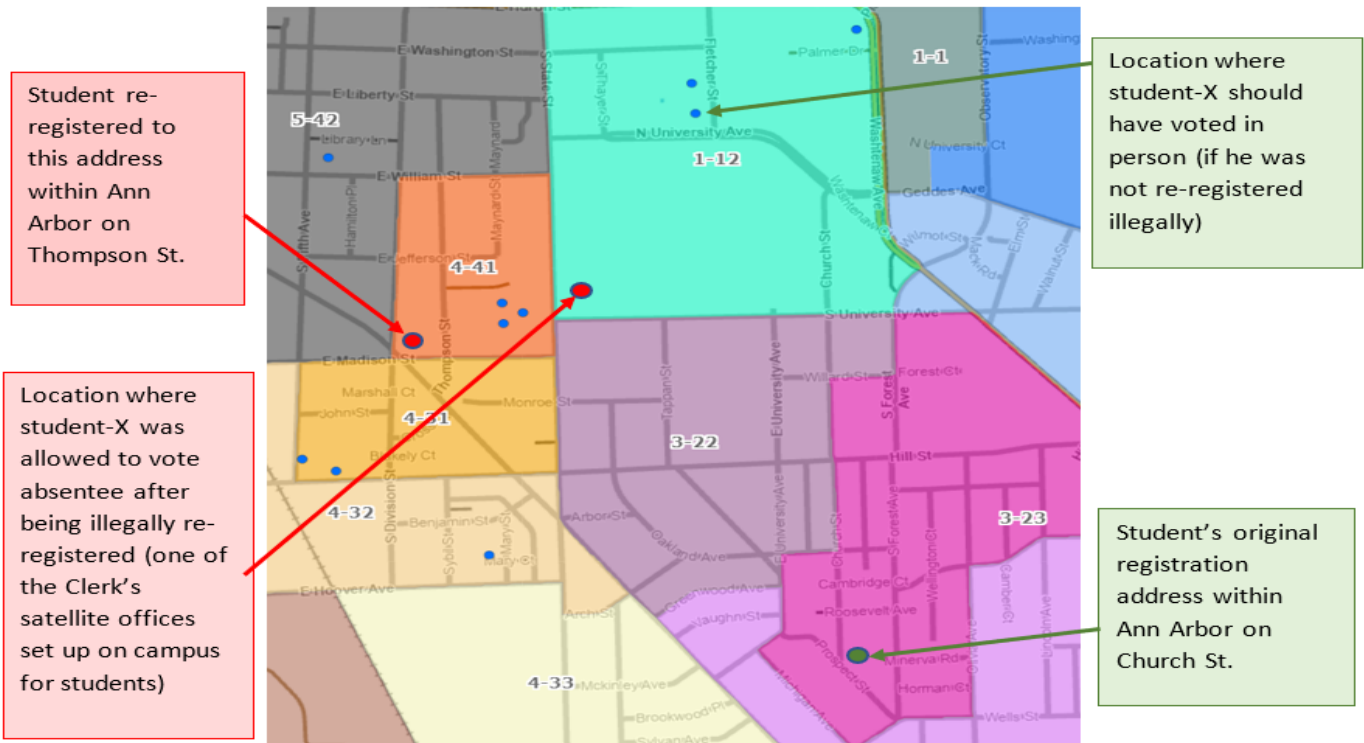
--Ryan Stanton | The Ann Arbor News, [Hours-long lines on University of Michigan campus as students scramble to vote](https://www.mlive.com/politics/2022/11/hours-long-lines-on-university-of-michigan-campus-as-students-vote) ([https://www.mlive.com/politics/2022/11/hours-long-lines-on-university-of-michigan-campus-as-students-](https://www.mlive.com/politics/2022/11/hours-long-lines-on-university-of-michigan-campus-as-students-vote)



New voters waited hours to register and vote. ANN ARBOR, Mich. – The final vote in Ann Arbor was cast at 2 a.m. the morning after the midterm election began. <https://www.clickondetroit.com/all-about-ann-arbor/2022/11/09/meet-the-university-of-michigan-student-who-waited-in-line-for-6-hours-to-register-to-vote-cast-ballot/>

In some instances, the students' legally authorized polling site was located only a few blocks from where they re-registered on campus. “The Curious Case of Student X” below illustrates how one re-registrant needed walk only a couple of blocks to vote in the lawful precinct.

### The Curious Case of Student X



The map above shows one example of more than 180 unlawful re-registrations that occurred within the City of Ann Arbor jurisdiction.

### Clerk ignorance?

While promoting its two new campus satellite offices, Ann Arbor City Clerk Jacqueline Beaudry’s office displayed multiple references to the legal requirement for previously registered Ann Arbor voters to vote in their own precincts. Note the wording on the clerk office announcements:

\*ELECTION DAY--Open for voters registering to vote on election day. If you are already registered and would like to vote on election day, you must go to your assigned polling location.

City Clerk Satellite Office  
at  
**UMMA**  
525 S. State St.

Opens Tues., September 27

Regular Hours

Mon - Thur 12 PM - 6 PM  
Fri 12 PM - 4 PM

Special Hours

Sat. Nov. 5 12 PM - 4 PM  
Mon. Nov. 7 10 AM - 4 PM  
\*Tues. Nov. 8 8 AM - 8 PM

\*ELECTION DAY - Open for voters registering to vote on election day. If you are already registered and would like to vote on election day, you must go to your assigned polling location.

City Clerk Satellite Office  
at  
**Duderstadt**  
2281 Bonisteel Blvd.

Opens Wed., October 12

Regular Hours

Wed - Thur 12 PM - 6 PM  
Fri 12 PM - 4 PM

Special Hours

Mon. Oct. 24 12 PM - 6 PM  
\*Tues. Nov. 8 8 AM - 8 PM

\*ELECTION DAY - Open for voters registering to vote on election day. If you are already registered and would like to vote on election day, you must go to your assigned polling location.

Ryan Stanton of the Ann Arbor News, wrote:

Ann Arbor City Clerk Jackie Beaudry confirmed shortly after 7 p.m. Tuesday there were hours-long lines at both the city’s satellite offices on the UM campus, where the city has been processing same-day registration requests from students. Wait times are estimated to be up to four hours.

--[Hours-long lines on University of Michigan campus as students scramble to vote](#)  
MLive/Ann Arbor News

Clerk Beaudry can hardly claim ignorance of the law. At the time of the November 2022 election, she had served more than 17 years, since April 2005, as Ann Arbor City Clerk. According to the Clerk's *2019 Fiscal Report*, published on the A2gov.org [website](#), Beaudry “is a Master Municipal Clerk, a Certified Michigan Municipal Clerk, and holds a Master of Public Administration specializing in local government management.”

Michigan Compiled Law (MC) [168.497\(2\)](#) applies to voters who vote in person:

(2) An individual who is not registered to vote but possesses the qualifications of an elector as provided in section 492 or an individual who is not registered to vote in the city or township in which he or she is registering to vote may apply for registration in person at the city or township clerk's office of the city or township in which he or she resides from the fourteenth day before an election and continuing through the day of the election. (<http://legislature.mi.gov/doc.aspx?mcl-168-497>)

MCL [168.761\(3\)](#) applies to voters who vote absentee:

... only an individual who is not a registered elector, or an individual who is not registered to vote in the city or township in which he or she is registering to vote, and who registers to vote on election day in person with the clerk of the city or township in which the individual resides may apply for and complete an absent voter ballot in person at the clerk's office on election day.

#### IV. ELECTIONEERING VIOLATES THE LAW

Why would students wait in line for up to six hours to re-register and vote absentee when they could have voted quickly in person a few blocks away where they were already registered?

According to “Click on Detroit” news channel 4 reporting the Washtenaw Democratic party bought and delivered pizza to the students waiting in line to vote. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E14o82KmAkQ>)

Other reports and images document that one local political party provided potential voters with hot chocolate, water, and blankets.

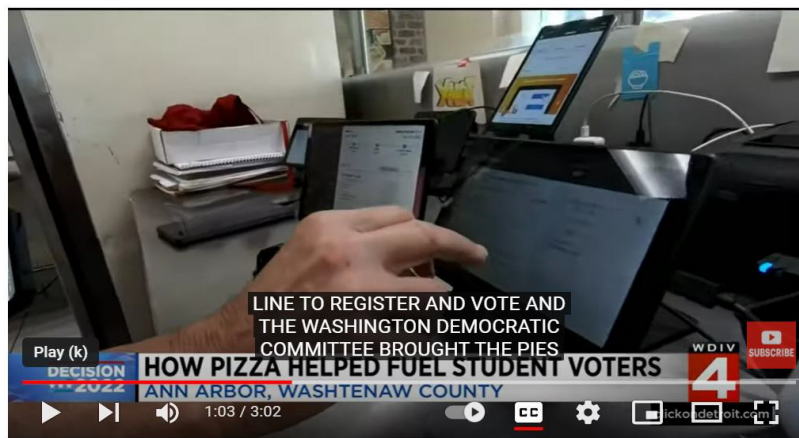
Michigan Compiled Law [168.931\(1\)\(a\)](#) states:

A person shall not, either directly or indirectly, give, lend, or promise valuable consideration, to or for any person, as an inducement to influence the manner of voting by a person relative to a candidate or ballot question.





Ann Arbor's new State Rep. Jason Morgan posts a selfie with a pizza on Twitter "Making sure students stay in line for same-day registration on campus. #VoteBlueToSaveDemocracy," [The Ann Arbor Independent](#), November 14, 2022.



How pizza helped fuel University of Michigan student voters



"Line to register to register and vote and the Washington [Washtenaw] Democratic Committee brought the pies."

## SUMMARY

Significant violations of Michigan Compiled Law (MCL) and federal laws occurred during the 2022 election in Ann Arbor.

**Late registrations and late ballots.** At least 600 voters were allowed to register at satellite clerk office locations after the 8:00 p.m. deadline on election day 2022.<sup>2</sup> After-deadline absentee ballots were unlawfully accepted and counted. A minimum of 120 voters registered on November 9, and their absentee ballots were counted in the election that closed at 8 p.m. on November 8.

**Unlawful altering of records.** Official records were altered, and computer systems were reportedly changed in order to allow the unlawful counting of late ballots.

**Discriminatory practices.** The clerk, in placing two satellite clerk offices on the University of Michigan's two campuses showed favoritism to students and discriminated against other demographic groups, including senior citizens.<sup>1</sup>

**Illegal re-registrations.** More than 180 already-registered voters in the City of Ann Arbor were re-registered in a different Ann Arbor precinct after the close of the statutory 14-day window. A full 150 of those unlawful re-registrations occurred at the campus satellite offices.<sup>3</sup>

**Voter suppression.** Unlawful re-registrations of voters within the clerk's jurisdiction created long wait times in lines and amounted to voter suppression.

**Electioneering.** Electioneering is bribery. It is illegal. Yet, one party appears to have disregarded the law and engaged in electioneering in a targeted fashion, providing gifts (bribes) to potential voters to entice them to stay in long lines and vote.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

PIME and MFE believe it is important for all eligible voters to have the same access to voting. Every ineligible vote cancels one eligible vote, so practices that violate the law or favor one demographic group over another must be halted.

It is this report's recommendation that these findings serve as guidelines to restore integrity to Michigan's elections going forward.

Those who committed unlawful acts should be held to account.



Steps need to be taken to eliminate the unlawful practices that occurred in Ann Arbor during this past election cycle. Those steps should not include the amendment of existing laws or the enactment of new laws that will enable unethical, unfair, or dishonest behavior.

Unlawful, biased, and unfair acts must be prevented from recurring if we are to restore integrity to Michigan's elections and have the fair and honest elections that we all desire and deserve.

## ABOUT MICHIGAN FAIR ELECTIONS AND PURE INTEGRITY MICHIGAN ELECTIONS

**Michigan Fair Elections Institute (MFE)** is a Michigan nonprofit organization composed of volunteers. Our local task forces, alliances with like-minded organizations, and statewide committees work to build a successful and permanent election integrity infrastructure. We take action to ensure the state's laws are designed to protect election integrity and election administrators uphold and enforce the laws.

We encourage readers to join our growing team. There is no charge to belong, though donations are welcomed. Simply go to the website and sign up for the newsletter. Better yet, volunteer.

Website: [mifairelections.org](http://mifairelections.org).

Social media: Facebook, Telegram, Rumble, Signal, and Truth

Email: [mifairelections@gmail.com](mailto:mifairelections@gmail.com)



**Pure Integrity for Michigan Elections** is a Michigan nonprofit 501(C)4 organization whose mission is to help restore election integrity to the Great Lakes State. PIME is a peaceful, nonpartisan political movement that welcomes all who support election integrity and the U.S. and Michigan Constitutions. We urge you to join our growing team of supporters.

Website: [pureintegritymichiganelections.org](http://pureintegritymichiganelections.org).

Social: Rumble, Facebook, Signal, Truth, and Telegram

Email: [pureintegrityforme@gmail.com](mailto:pureintegrityforme@gmail.com)

