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Edition Number One, 2025

Michigan Fair Elections Institute (MFEI) is a nonprofit 501(c)3 educational organization, IRS tax-exempt #92-3943258, P.O. Box 41, Stockbridge, MI 49285. Telephone: 517-299-8002.

To learn more about Michigan Fair Elections Institute (MFEI) go to https://www.mifairelections.org/

Annual Report 2024



Michigan Fair Elections Institute

Submitted by
Patrice Johnson, Chair
January 2025

P.O. Box 41, Stockbridge, MI 49285 patrice@mifairelections.org mobile: 517-420-7978

Letter from the Chair

Dear Friend,



Last year was a banner year for Michigan Fair Elections Institute, and the organization played a significant role in the outcome of Michigan's 2024 election. After others wrote off the state's elections as too rigged to repair, MFEI volunteers refused to acquiesce. Win or lose, thousands of supporters from all walks of life teamed together to restore integrity to the state's elections.

Volunteers in more than half the state's 83 counties stepped forward to serve as touchpoints with their local communities. They

became familiar with election law and defended it at state, county, and local levels. They analyzed voter rolls and worked with their local clerks to remove dead, moved, duplicate, and ineligible registrants. Others knocked doors, made phone calls, and wrote letters. Volunteers served on MFEI's statewide committees to support vital initiatives.

MFEI led investigations and held an in-person, debate-style forum of state Supreme Court candidates. An event with Attorney John Eastman drew more than 250 attendees. When necessary, MFEI filed lawsuits.

Then early voting began, and MFEI volunteers served as election inspectors and poll challengers. On Election Day, a team set up video cameras to watch a ballot-manufacturing warehouse. Other volunteers stood last in line as the polls closed. County boards of canvassers, armed with MFEI's new book, *Responsibilities and Rights of County Boards of Canvassers*, had the information they needed to follow the law. MFEI volunteers were polite, persistent, and they were right.

Since its founding a mere two-and-a-half years ago, MFEI has grown to become the preeminent election integrity organization in the state. MFEI, a nonprofit 501(c)3, and affiliate Pure Integrity Michigan Elections (PIME), a nonprofit 501(c)4, are widely renowned as the premier grassroots election integrity think tanks in Michigan.

"MFE is a powerhouse!" wrote Marian Sheridan, spokesperson for the Michigan Conservative Coalition. Credit goes to MFEI's mighty volunteers and to the generous support of donors like you.

Now. As we turn our sights to 2025 and election year 2026, MFEI is determined to restore critical processes, necessary for ensuring the integrity of Michigan's elections. We invite you to join us in turning next year's goals into reality.

For election integrity,

Patrice Johnson, Chair
Michigan Fair Elections Institute
P.O. Box 41, Stockbridge, MI 49285 . contact@mifairelections.org

Executive Summary



MFEI Benzie County Leader, Mark Smith

Michigan Fair Elections Institute operates on the principle that talented people will achieve extraordinary results when they work as a team toward shared, research-based goals. MFEI's business model is proven effective, and its foundation rests on the two pillars of Election Oversight and Educational Outreach. The organization's mission is to restore integrity to Michigan's elections, and its network of more than 2,000 volunteers spans half the state's 83 counties.

The organization's two pillars enhance its impact and provide flexibility, so MFEI is known for its ability to respond quickly and effectively to emerging situations. The process works like this: Volunteers in MFEI's Election Oversight efforts investigate election integrity issues and become involved election processes. Then MFEI's Educational Outreach volunteers verify the findings, work to create public awareness, take steps to remedy the issues.

The organization's statewide committees support MFEI's areas of focus and consist of Communications, Litigation, Soles to Rolls (voter roll analysis), and the Chapter Leaders Council. MFEI is a charitable 501(c)3 educational organization (IRS tax-exempt #92-3943258).

This *Annual Report 2024* reviews MFEI's key accomplishments according to its two foundational pillars:

Election Oversight

Election Inspectors (poll workers). When MFEI analysts revealed an unlawful 7 to 1 imbalance among party poll workers in Detroit, MFEI brought the issue to the public's attention. Then the organization supported PIME and the Michigan Conservative Coalition in recruiting election inspectors. Volunteers rallied in support, and 1,075 signed up to become poll workers in Detroit.

Poll challengers. Both MFEI and Pure Integrity Michigan Elections (PIME) became poll challenger credentialing organizations and credentialed hundreds of poll challengers in the state's four largest counties.

Soles to Rolls (S2R) Voter Roll Hygiene. By the end of 2024, 872 volunteers had stepped forward to help with MFEI's voter roll hygiene program, which analyzes and cleans

the state's voter rolls, the Qualified Voter File (QVF). Clerk advocate volunteers worked with their local clerks to ensure that only living, state-resident citizens are registered and vote. These dedicated volunteers assisted local clerks to remove thousands of ineligible registrations from the state's rolls, and they identified and reported algorithmic manipulations in the data.

Legislative Analysis and Civic Engagement. On the legislative front, MFEI's dedicated volunteers analyzed more than 70 Michigan Senate and House election bills and generated reports that other organizations utilized when testifying at state legislative hearings. Many MFEI supporters became civically engaged, helping with elections and running for office, often winning election.

Litigation. Over the past two years, MFEI sponsored two federal lawsuits and two Help America Vote Act (HAVA) complaints. We filed two amici briefs with the Supreme Court of the United States. The lawsuits and one amici brief are currently working their ways through the federal court system.

Investigative Reports. Teams of researchers investigated election-related issues and generated reports, documenting alleged violations of state and federal law.

Last in Line. MFEI supporters stood last in line at 8 PM on election night November 5 to prevent unlawful after-hour registrations and voting.

Warehouse Watch. Our Detroit Warehouse Watch Party crew livestreamed into the wee hours of the morning of November 6 after the polls closed during the November 5 Presidential Election in an effort to deter any mysterious late-night ballot drop-offs at Detroit's Huntington Place.

Educational Outreach

Door Knocking to Educate Low Propensity and Underserved Voters. MFEI's Underserved Voter Outreach Team (UVOT) set a goal to increase low propensity voter turnout 35%, and we exceeded that goal, increasing turnout a full 43%. When our canvassers spoke with voters who rarely or never voted, we increased turnout 93%.

Law books. MFEI published the Michigan Election Law Summary and FAQs and Responsibilities and Rights of County Boards of Canvassers to provide clerks, county boards of canvassers, and legislators handy access to election law—an especially important service in light of the intimidation tactics and erroneous guidance coming from the Secretary of State.

Out-of-state movers. MFEI sent 67,500 letters to registrants who had moved out of state and assisted them in removing their duplicate registrations.

Letter writing. MFEI volunteers wrote more than 10,000 personalized letters to educate underserved and low-frequency voters about issues and the need for their civic participation in the electoral process.

Debate. MFEI hosted the Great Debate, the state's only educational, debate-style forum enabling voters to meet, in person, the candidates for the Michigan Supreme Court and to hear their viewpoints firsthand

Original research reports. MFEI's investigative teams produced four <u>original research</u> reports in 2024.

Community outreach. MFEI supporters spoke at events, hosted information tables, and registered to vote underserved people of faith, senior citizens, gun owners, military veterans, and Chaldean Catholics. We conducted meetings, picnics, and training seminars. Our live News@Noon video stream engaged 60 to 100 volunteers each week all year long.

Now, as we turn our sights to 2025 and election year 2026, MFEI is poised to achieve unprecedented heights in restoring integrity to Michigan's elections. Just as the generous donations of talent and finances made 2024's achievements possible, so too we hope you will choose to help us turn next year's goals into reality.

No one can do everything, but everyone can do something.

Click here to donate.

Donate

Contents

Lette	er from the Chair	3
Exec	utive Summary	4
Annı	ual Report 2024	8
MF	FEI Organization	8
	Model	8
	Mission	8
	Pillars	8
	Committees	8
	Strategic Objectives	8
	Organizational Structure	9
	Financial Reports	9
Ma	ajor Achievements 2024	.11
1.	Election Oversight	.11
	Election Inspectors and Poll Challengers	.11
	Soles to Rolls Voter Roll Hygiene	.11
	Legislative Analysis and Civic Engagement	.12
	Litigation	.12
	Investigative Reports	.13
	Last in Line	.13
,	Warehouse Watch	.14
2.	Educational Outreach	.14
	Communications	.14
	John Eastman Event	. 15
	Door Knocking to Educate Low Propensity and Underserved Voters	. 15
	Law Books	. 17
	Mailing to Out-of-State Movers	. 17
	Letter Writing	.18
	The Great Debate among Supreme Court Candidates	.18
	Original Research Reports	.18
	Community Outreach	. 20
Strat	egic Plan 2025: Goals and Wish List	. 21
Cond	clusion	23

Annual Report 2024

MFEI Organization

MFEI operates on the principle that talented people will achieve extraordinary results when they work as a team toward shared, research-based goals. MFEI's business model is simple, and its mission, pillars, and organizational structure are proven effective. MFEI is a nonprofit 501(c)3 educational organization, IRS tax-exempt # 92-3943258.

Model. As an educational nonprofit, MFEI relies on hard-working volunteers and generous donors.

Mission. To help restore integrity to Michigan's elections.

Pillars

- 1. Election Oversight
- 2. Educational Outreach

Committees

- 1. Local task force chapters
- 2. Communication
- 3. Legislative analysis
- 4. Litigation

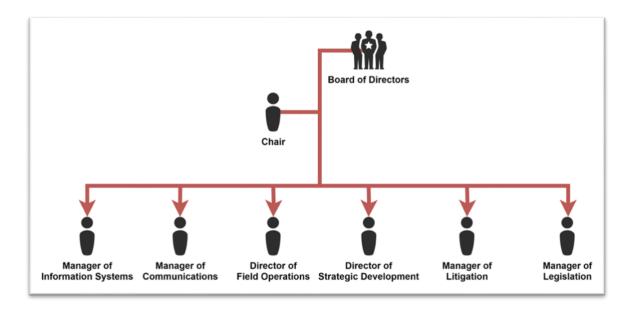
Strategic Objectives

- 1. Educate citizens on the importance of civic involvement and engage them in the electoral process.
- 2. Enhance MFEI's Soles to Rolls (S2R) program to ensure voter roll hygiene and protect eligible citizens' right to have their undiluted vote count in each election.
- 3. Build effective relationships with township and municipal clerks responsible for election administration.
- 4. Provide the public with accurate and insightful analysis of election processes, rules, bills, and laws.
- 5. Litigate when necessary.

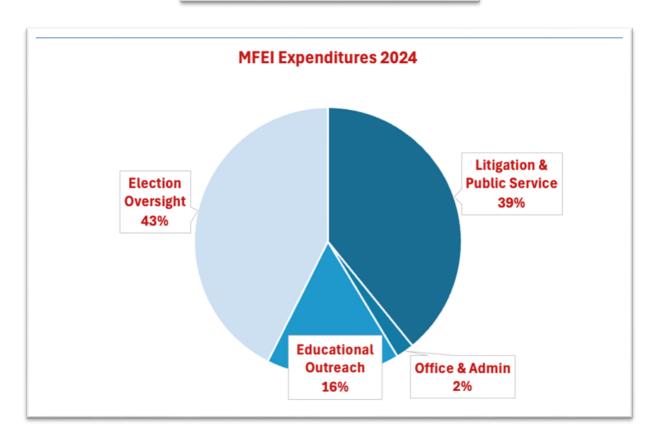
Organizational Structure

MFEI's Board members are as follows:

- Patrice Johnson (chair)
- Becky Weddon (secretary)
- Jim Johnson (treasurer)
- Dee Davey
- Janine lyer
- Cheryl Pezon
- Alex Weddon



MFEI Expenditures 2024			
Category	Expenditure		
Litigation & Public Service	162,112		
Office & Admin	9,108		
Educational Outreach	66,943		
Election Oversight	176,449		
<u>Total</u>	\$ 414,612		



Major Achievements 2024

1. Election Oversight

Election Inspectors and Poll Challengers.

During the 2024 Presidential Election, MFEI's dedicated volunteers proved themselves indispensable in educating voters on the importance of voting. More than 1,075 patriots stepped forward to participate as election inspectors (poll workers) in Detroit. In addition, MFEI and its affiliate Pure Integrity Michigan Elections, PIME (a nonprofit 501(c)4), became certified to credential poll challengers. The two organizations credentialed more than 144 poll challengers in the state's four most-populated counties of Wayne, Macomb, Oakland, and Kent.



residents across the state had signed up to help clean Michigan's voter rolls.

MFEI's Soles to Rolls (S2R) and Check My Vote (CMV) volunteers analyzed the data and canvassed their local communities to verify it. Then they collaborated with their local clerks to identify and remove thousands of ineligible registrations.

The excerpt below provides a sample of MFEI's monthly S2R report:

County	Flagged	In Triage	To be challenged	Challenged
WEXFORD	11	6	1	4
WAYNE	2827	1307	528	947
WASHTENAW	482	358	1	123

Legislative Analysis and Civic Engagement. MFEI's dedicated volunteers analyzed more than 70 Michigan House and Senate election bills and generated reports that other organizations utilized when testifying at state legislative hearings. Many MFEI supporters became civically engaged, helping with elections and running for office, often winning election.



Litigation. Over the past two years, MFEI sponsored two federal lawsuits and two Help America Vote Act (HAVA) complaints. The organization filed two amici briefs with the U.S. Supreme Court. The lawsuits and one amici brief are currently working their ways through the federal court system.

- Federal Lawsuits: Michigan Legislators Shut Down for Standing ... Again and Eleven Michigan Legislators Appeal Federal Lawsuit to the United States Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals. After a hearing on Dec. 11, 2024, the U.S. Sixth District Court dismissed the case based on standing. MFEI plans to appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court.
- 2. Federal Lawsuit: Minnesota's Use of the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC) Violates the Driver's Privacy Protection Act. Those Whom We Elect Must Follow Privacy Laws, Too! The court's decision is expected in February 2025.
- 3. Help America Vote Act (HAVA) Complaint: <u>Schaeper v Grand Valley State University</u> and Sec. of State Benson
- 4. MFEI Amicus Curiae to SCOTUS re: Bost v Illinois Board of Elections, Dec. 22, 2024.
- 5. Amicus Curiae SCOTUS: <u>U.S. Supreme Court Asked to Grant Standing to Pennsylvania Legislators</u>. <u>Michigan Fair Elections and Wisconsin Voter Alliance File Brief</u>, <u>HAVA Complaint Against SOS Benson for Joining MI in third-party ERIC</u>

Investigative Reports. Teams researched election-related issues and generated investigative reports, documenting alleged violations of state and federal law. Check out some of MFEI's 2024 reports:



To view these and other MFEI original reports, click <u>here</u>. https://www.mifairelections.org/library

Last in Line. More than 50 MFEI volunteers stood last in line at 8 PM on election night, Nov. 5, to prevent unlawful after-hour registrations and voting.



Warehouse Watch. MFEI's Detroit Warehouse Watch Party crew livestreamed into the wee hours of the morning during the Nov. 5, 2024, Presidential Election to deter illegal ballot drop-offs at Detroit's Huntington Place. Perhaps as a result, no late-night ballot drops occurred.



No one can do everything, but everyone can do something.

2. Educational Outreach

Communications. During 2024, our organization hosted News@Noon, videopodcasting live to 60 to 100 volunteers each week. MFEI and PIME published 141 original articles and 22 guest articles, plus event promotions and reprints on their website blogs. The communications team introduced *Past is Prologue* to put readers in touch with key election integrity articles across the media landscape each week, and the popular Friday blog post has published 25 weekly aggregations with approximately 20 links each.

MFEI is actively building its media presence and has established close working relationships with a growing number of major media outlets during 2024. Coverage of the organization's activities or reprints of its articles appeared in The Federalist, Real Clear Investigations, Epoch Times, American Thinker, Daily Signal, New York Times, PBS's American Life, Gateway Pundit, and numerous statewide media, including the Detroit News and Detroit Free Press.

John Eastman Event. On May

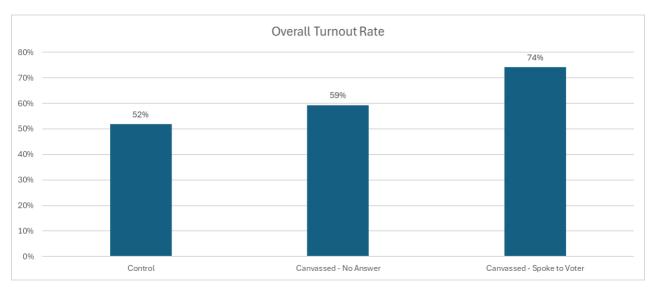
250 patriots attended an MFEI
and Stand Up Michigan event in
Lansing. The featured speaker,
Attorney John Eastman, J.D.,
Ph.D., was under threat of losing
his law license for representing a
U.S. president. Attendees were
reminded of a quote from U.S.
Supreme Court Justice John Paul
Stevens in a 1985 decision,

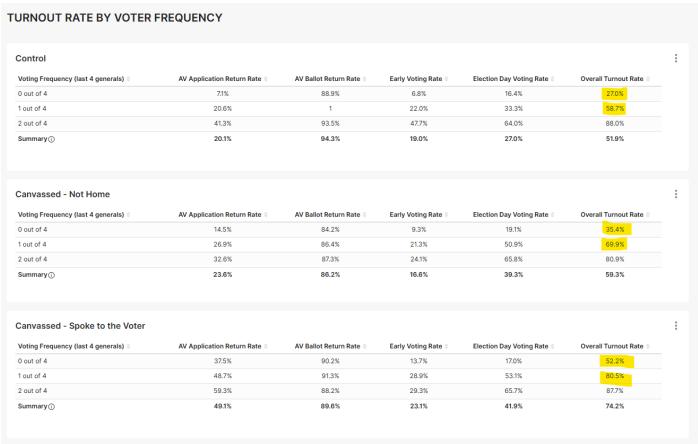


"...Shakespeare insightfully realized that disposing of lawyers is a step in the direction of a totalitarian form of government." View articles and video here, here, here and here.

Door Knocking to Educate Low Propensity and Underserved Voters. More than 25 years of randomized controlled trials show that educating voters through direct communication like door knocking increases turnout, so MFEI's *Underserved Voter Outreach Team (UVOT)* sponsored a pilot program to educate and register underserved voters on the western side of the state. We knocked on the doors of more than 6,500 low propensity voters and increased turnout by 43%, exceeding the goal of 35%. (Low propensity voters had cast ballots in zero, one, or two of the past four general elections.)

During the process, we noticed that we were having a large impact on voters who had voted in zero or one of the past four general elections. When our canvassers spoke with voters who had never or rarely voted, we increased turnout by 93%.

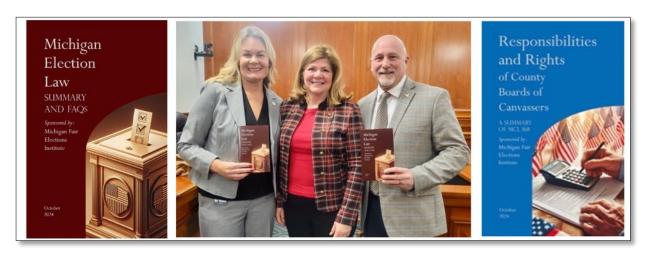




In the coming months, MFEI plans to expand this program to encourage underserved voters to participate in 2025 mayoral races and the Nov. 3, 2026 general election.

Law Books. To equip clerks and members of county canvassing boards with quick and reliable access to the law, and to counter the Secretary of State's erroneous guidance, MFEI published the handy 50-page *Michigan Election Law Summary and FAQs* and the 38-page *Roles and Responsibilities of County Boards of Canvassers*.

MFEI volunteers hand-delivered or mailed the law books to clerks and legislators. These free reference guides, organized according to frequently asked questions, provide easy access to Michigan law for clerks, county canvassers, legislators, election workers, volunteers, and everyday citizens. A federal judge endorsed the law book, and a 13-year member of the Board of State Canvassers endorsed the board of canvassers book as long overdue and the first of its kind.



Click here to view <u>Michigan Election Law Summary and FAQs</u> and <u>Roles and</u> Responsibilities of County Boards of Canvassers.

Mailing to Out-of-State Movers. MFEI mailed 67,500 personalized letters to registrants who had moved out of state yet lingered on Michigan's voter rolls. The mailing contained the official forms and links to enable clerks to deregister registrants who had moved and were no longer eligible to vote in Michigan.



Letter Writing. MFEI volunteers wrote more than 10,000 personalized letters to underserved and low-frequency voters to educate them about issues and the importance of their civic participation in the electoral process.



EMFEI The Great Debate among Supreme Court Candidates.

MFEI was the only organization to host a debate-style educational forum for voters to meet candidates for the Michigan Supreme Court in person and hear them answer legal questions firsthand.





Original Research Reports. MFEI's investigative teams produced the following original research reports:

Cover	Title	Da	ate
Water vot forder and the second secon	When Vote Totals Don't Match: An Investigative Analysis		December 2024
Failure of UC-CAVA. Promotion for the Cava Cava Cava Cava Cava Cava Cava Cav	Failure of UOCAVA: Potential for Noncitizen Voting in Our Elections		December 2024
Agent Art Commended Art Commen	Request for EAC OIG Assessr Risk	nent of Audit	March 2024

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A Committee The American Committee	Mich. Grand Valley State University HAVA Complaint	January 2024
Prior year reports		
And African congression of the Conference of the	Ann Arbor Compromises Election Integrity	July 2023
Colored Colore	Lights Out. Voter Roll Anomalies in East Lansing	May 2022

Community Outreach. MFEI volunteers spoke at events, hosted information tables, and actively registered underserved people of faith, senior citizens, gun owners, military veterans, and Chaldean Catholics. We conducted meetings, picnics, and training seminars.



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Strategic Plan 2025: Goals and Wish List

MFEI's *Strategic Plan 2025*, a separate document, lays out the organization's wish list of prioritized projects for 2025. Those projects, summarized below, will become reality with the continuing support of volunteers and donors like you:

Build on Success. After the 2024 Presidential Election, MFEI compiled after-action reports on its 2024 projects. Now, we seek to build on the successes and lessons learned to follow best practices on those programs as they apply to 2025.

Organization Administration. MFEI's board of directors and chair donate their time, talents, and finances to MFEI. They seek no financial remuneration. The same is true for most of the organization's leadership, including those who oversee the volunteer task forces, chapters, and committees. However, to assure the organization's sustainability, MFEI needs to increase its paid-staff infrastructure.

presence and engagement, MFEI is adopting a chapter model, and MFEI's field operations team is interviewing each volunteer to help match their talents and interests with MFEI initiatives. This multi-layered recruitment and retention plan enhances the organization's social media and events programs and focuses on ensuring MFEI's valued volunteers engage with the organization year after year.

Underserved Voter Outreach Team (UVOT) to encourage citizen engagement in the 2025 Detroit and Dearborn mayoral races. MFEI seeks to sponsor PIME to recruit and place election inspectors and poll challengers in these elections. It is important for MFEI to continue to have ongoing presence with the Detroit Clerk's office. Plus, MFEI would like to host events and sponsor candidate forums.

Soles to Rolls (S2R). MFEI's current network of 872 Soles to Rolls volunteers provides data-assisted and in-person verification of Michigan's official voter rolls to ensure only living and eligible citizens register and vote. MFEI plans to continue to build that program, launching a buddy system to mentor newcomers, building leadership depth, producing more training videos, and educating volunteers and the public on S2R findings.

Clerk Advocate (Adopt a Clerk) voter roll hygiene efforts depend on teamwork with the local clerk. The proficiency of each local clerk advocate is essential for managing the chapter's relationship with the local clerk. MFEI needs to refill and make permanent its

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temporary Clerk Advocate Manager position for 2025. Other goals include developing systems for regular communications and providing resources to educate and assist elections clerks to comply with Michigan law.

Letters to Out-of-State Movers. The 2024 mailing to 67,500 out-of-state movers was a huge success. MFEI would like to build on this and launch a hand-addressed letter writing campaign to 70,000 to 110,000 former residents whom the U.S. Postal Service's National Change of Address (NCOA) indicates have moved out of state.

the 2020 presidential election, computer screens showing the Qualified Voter File were available at each absentee vote counting board (AVCB) table in Detroit's Huntington Place. This way, inspectors could check the eligibility of each unopened absentee ballot envelope. But during the 2024 presidential election, the clerk replaced the computer screens with paper printouts. This removal of live access to the QVF created vulnerabilities and opened the door to manipulation. MFEI needs to begin work now to ensure the electronic screens are restored by Nov. 2025.

Data services. With funding, MFEI will enhance its relationship with Check My Vote for its data services to MFEI's Soles to Rolls program. Internal operations need to ensure effective data management for all aspects of organizational management from recruitment to retention and from communications to fundraising.

to show them something new every day, so one of the communications team's objectives is to launch Operation Beyond the Beachhead to help readers understand the connections among news events. The plan will further develop MFEI's educational voice and enhance its editorial focus across the organization's website, social media, email, and weekly News@Noon live video meeting.

Messaging and Investigative Reporting. As MFEI's reputation as a source of election integrity news and policy continues to mount, a dedicated messaging team, in collaboration with MFEI leaders, will integrate and amplify MFEI's stance on evolving matters and continue to produce impactful investigative reports.

Meetings. MFEI needs to become a regular host for in-person meetings to educate and recognize its supporters.

Legislation. MFEI organizes its supporters to analyze election-related bills and educate the public on legislative issues. Pure Integrity Michigan Elections (PIME) maintains

a presence in Lansing where, PIME volunteers testify to support or oppose bills. Now, PIME plans to take a proactive role in prioritizing and drafting model election-related legislation.

EMFEI Litigation. Last year, a major portion (39%) of MFEI's annual budget was devoted to sponsoring litigation. The availability of funds determines the number of lawsuits the organization is able to sponsor. In Michigan, highly significant election-related issues appear to require litigation.

with a ballot tracked as closely as a dollar through the banking system. U.S. Congress and the Michigan state legislature need to enact laws that require election administrators to establish auditable processes to protect the integrity of every ballot.

Conclusion

As 2024 drew to a close, MFEI had achieved a banner year and played a significant role in the outcome of November's Presidential Election. Though young, MFEI has grown to become the preeminent election integrity organization in the state. The nonprofit 501(c)3 organization and its nonprofit 501(c)4 affiliate, Pure Integrity Michigan Elections, are widely renowned as the premier grassroots election integrity think tanks in Michigan.

MFEI's core strengths spring from its volunteers' mighty efforts and the generous support of donors like you. MFEI's structure facilitates its impact and flexibility to respond to emerging issues. The components of its two-legged approach included the following:

Election Oversight

- Election Inspectors (poll workers)
- Poll challengers
- Soles to Rolls (S2R) Voter Roll Hygiene
- Legislative Analysis and Civic Engagement
- Litigation
- Investigative Reports
- Last in Line
- Warehouse Watch

Educational Outreach

- John Eastman Event
- Door knocking to educate low propensity and underserved voters

- Law books
- Out-of-state movers
- Letter writing
- Hosting a Supreme Court Candidate debate-style forum
- Original research reports
- · Community outreach

Now, as we turn our sights to 2025 and election year 2026, MFEI is positioned to achieve unprecedented heights in restoring integrity to Michigan's elections. We invite you to join us and help turn next year's goals into reality.

Click here to donate.

Donate



Thank you for making 2024 a success.