

NEWS RELEASE - CORRECTED

Republican Caucus: Democrats attempt to form task force casting doubt on local clerks' ability to provide accessible, safe, healthy and secure elections

May 15, 2020, OAKLAND COUNTY, MI. – During the May 13th Board of Commissioners meeting, Board Chairman **David T. Woodward** (D-Royal Oak) introduced a resolution to create the Oakland County Safe and Healthy Elections Task Force to Prepare for Elections During the COVID-19 Pandemic. The stated intent of the task force is to ensure that upcoming elections during the COVID-19 pandemic are accessible, safe, healthy and secure in Oakland County.

“The task force proposed by the Democrat majority is a task force in search of a problem,” Republican Caucus Chairman **Michael J. Gingell** (R-Lake Orion) said. “Not one local clerk has contacted the Board of Commissioners requesting the establishment of a task force on the matter.”

During discussion on the resolution, Oakland County Clerk and Register of Deeds Lisa Brown, a democrat, indicated that she had not requested that a task force be established either. Further, before taking a vote on the measure, Commissioner **Nancy Quarles** (D-Southfield) made an amendment to reduce the number of local clerks who will be allowed to participate on the task force. Amendments proposed by Republicans to adjust the task force and its membership in order to make it less political and more bi-partisan were all rejected by the Democrat majority. Just prior to a final vote on the resolution, the matter was referred back to committee for further consideration.

“The task force in its current form is nothing more than a political stunt by the Democrat majority to appoint their special interest groups, such as the ACLU, the NAACP and the League of Women Voters, who know nothing about election logistics, to provide oversight and give instruction to the local clerks on how to run elections,” Gingell said. “The irony in all of this is that the Democrat majority proposed an amendment that actually reduced the number of local clerks who are included in the membership of the task force.”

“The Republican Caucus believes that our local clerks know how to run elections and we have the utmost confidence in their ability to conduct accessible, safe, healthy and secure elections,” Gingell said. “Unfortunately, by introducing this resolution, the Democrat majority has sent a vote of no confidence to our County Clerk and our local clerks by taking this action.”

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