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## **OAKLAND COUNTY CLERK EARNS NATIONAL AWARD FOR ENHANCED ELECTION SERVICES**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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[OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN] – The Oakland County Clerk’s Office has been recognized by the National Association of Counties (NACo) with a 2022 NACo Achievement Award for the innovative Consolidated Absent Voter Counting Board run by the Clerk’s Elections Division since 2020, announced **Oakland County Clerk/ Register of Deeds Lisa Brown**.

“It is an honor to have our efforts receive this level of national recognition,” said **Clerk Brown**. “My team works closely with local city and township clerks and their staffs as well as with the Secretary of State’s Bureau of Elections to make sure that Michigan’s election laws are followed and that every vote is properly counted. I’m proud that we have successfully and efficiently delivered accurate and timely results over the last two years in a way that increases transparency and saves taxpayer resources.”

After Michigan voters approved Proposal 3 in 2018 to allow for “no-reason absentee voting,” local clerks faced unprecedented levels of absentee ballot requests and dramatic increases in administrative tasks. Exacerbated by the global pandemic, the shift in voter behavior prompted the Michigan Legislature and Governor responded to adopt Public Act 95-2020, allowing collaboration between municipal and county clerks to form combined absent voter counting boards (AVCBs).

**Oakland County Clerk Brown** recognized the law change as an opportunity to provide service to local partners along with the chance to ensure uniform standards and improved transparency for ballot tabulation in an increasingly charged political atmosphere. Starting in August 2020, Oakland County became the only county in Michigan to utilize the new law to process absentee ballots for multiple municipalities and, in doing so, ensured timely reporting of election results, achieved cost savings, and lessened administrative burdens for locals, while delivering heightened levels of transparency.

Over six elections in two years, the Oakland County team has processed and tabulated over one quarter of a million absentee ballots on behalf of local communities.

“Consolidating absentee ballot tabulation has increased transparency and allowed for heightened scrutiny by public observers who are easily able to view the adjudication process for multiple communities,” **Clerk Brown** said. “Local municipalities that partner with us have seen not only a cost savings but also quicker results on election night. But most importantly, the program helps boost the level of citizen participation in and understanding of the elections process.”

Founded in 1935, the National Association of Counties (NACo) represents nearly 40,000 county elected officials and 3.6 million county employees nationwide through advocacy of county priorities in federal policymaking and enriching the public’s understanding of county government, among other things.

Started in 1970, NACo’s annual Achievement Awards program is designed to recognize innovative, effective county government programs that strengthen services for residents. Nationally, awards are given in 18 different categories that reflect the vast, comprehensive services counties provide.

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