



STATE OF MICHIGAN
JOCELYN BENSON, SECRETARY OF STATE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
LANSING

February 10, 2022

Dear Michigan Clerks:

Our office has recently received multiple credible allegations of instances in which an unauthorized third-party has been granted access to vote tabulation machines in violation of Michigan law.

Michigan law is clear that unauthorized third parties may not have access to election technology and data. [MCL 168.931\(1\)\(h\)](#) states that it is a misdemeanor to "willfully fail to perform a duty imposed upon that person by this act, or disobey a lawful instruction or order of the secretary of state as chief state election officer [.]". Similarly, [MCL 168.932\(b\)](#) provides that it is a felony to "obtain undue possession of [a] . . . voting machine," and that "[a] person shall not aid or abet in any act prohibited by this subdivision."

Additionally, providing tabulators to unauthorized parties has serious implications for all of us as election administrators, as it risks the security and integrity of all Michigan elections. I encourage you to review the previous communications sent to you on this topic from the Bureau of Elections, including the correspondence from August 2021 which I attach here.

I write to remind you of your responsibility under the law to work with the Bureau to prevent future risks and address any that are outstanding. If you are aware of any incidents in a which an unauthorized third party has attempted to gain or has been given improper access to voting equipment, you have a duty to report this immediately. Please contact Lori Bourbonais at the Bureau of Elections directly. Or, if you prefer, you may report anonymously through our fraud tip line at 844-372-8356.

As we work to prepare for safe and secure 2022 elections, I know that, as the local and county officials running Michigan's elections on the front line, you are aware of the importance of safeguarding voting equipment, and protecting the integrity of our election systems. I also know that pressure has mounted on all of you in recent years, and yet you continue to demonstrate your dedication to the security and integrity of Michigan elections. On behalf of every Michigan voter, I thank you for continuing to do so.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Jocelyn Benson".

Jocelyn Benson
Michigan Secretary of State