



COUNT MICHIGAN!

An analysis of the November 2020 Michigan
Election

Oakland County, MI

June 29, 2022

An Election Integrity Force Report

Background:

The November 3rd, 2020 election is a hot topic in political circles. For the past twelve months, the Election Integrity Force (EIF) team has been pining away. Through trial and error, an evaluation of the Nov 3rd, 2020 Michigan election has been conducted across the state. In Oakland county, a research project was put in place to investigate all aspects of the Qualified Voter File (QVF) and the 2020 election.

The QVF is a document maintained by each Jurisdiction Clerk. It contains all information of the jurisdiction's registered voters; such as their address, voting history, etc... It is the responsibility of the jurisdiction clerk to maintain this document and ensure, to the best of their ability, it is accurate. This article will address how accurate the current voter roles are in Oakland County and why citizens need to be continuous stewards of our government.

The following topics will highlight findings from Oakland County.

1. Registered voters with illegitimate addresses.
2. Registered voters that applied for change of address.
3. Registered voters that have moved or do not exist.
4. Registered voters that haven't voted in 6 years.
5. Registered voters who are registered more than once.

All QVF's were obtained using a FOIA.

The number of registered voters in Oakland County, MI in the Dec 31st, 2020 QVF is:
1,037,877 (Note SOS reporting at time of vote 1,035,172)

Number of votes counted in Oakland County, MI in the Dec 31st, 2020 QVF:
767,783 (note SOS Reporting vote total is 775,379)

Registered Voters with Illegitimate Addresses:

Michigan election law states that a residence is defined as a, "place at which a person habitually sleeps, keeps his or her personal effects, and has a regular place of lodging." To identify the addresses that do not qualify, all addresses with over 10 registrations were digitally canvassed. A digital canvassing effort to classify the address was conducted by a small group of volunteers. The digital canvassing was audited afterwards to ensure maximum accuracy.

The total number of registrations, with an illegitimate addresses, total 4600 in Oakland County.

Of the 4600 registrations, 2175 voted in the 2020 election.

Illegitimate addresses include:

- a. Apartments addresses without apartment number.
- b. Senior care facilities without room number.
- c. Trailer parks without lot number.
- d. Businesses, USPS PO boxes, USPS stores, and empty lots.
- e. Hotel addresses without room number.

The QVF registration process allows for illegitimate addresses to be used to vote and these violations are difficult to identify for jurisdiction clerks.

Registered Voters that Applied for a Change of Address:

With the QVF, it is up to the jurisdiction clerk to maintain integrity and conduct programs to remove obsolete registrations (MI-168.509). One such way to conduct a clean up of the voter rolls is to use National Change of Address data that is maintained by the postal service. This NCOA data comes from citizens who apply to the postal service for an address change.

The USPS does not provide National Change of Address (NCOA) data directly. A series of companies are authorized providers of the information. The canvassing team acquired authorized NCOA data and enlisted the help of a second authorized paid for service, Melissa.com, for a double check. The NCOA data goes back 4 years, therefore the team was only able to use data back to February, 2018. From Feb 2018 to Sept 2020, 3569 people applied for a change of address departing Oakland County. To be eligible to vote in an election, a resident must be present in this jurisdiction from at least 30 days before the election.

Therefore, **all 3569 of these votes have been called into question.** If the citizen's applied for a NCOA to move out of county, more than 30 days before the election, how can it be ensured they were the ones to vote? Was a legitimate process to validate absentee ballot signatures followed?

Registered Voters that Moved or Do Not Exist:

The NCOA database gives a history of 4 years. To go beyond the 4 year window, Melissa.com's search engine was used to filter through potential moves prior to Feb 2018. To ensure integrity and have two data points, the 14,800 names from Melissa were put through a double check process on TruePeopleSearch.com.

The end result was an additional 1715 votes where the individual is listed as not living in Oakland County during the Nov 3rd, 2020 election.

Registered Voters that Haven't Voted in 6 Years:

In the beginning of the article, the number of registrants in Oakland County on Dec 31st, 2020 was 1,037,877. According to MI-168.509r, after 6 years of consecutive non-voting, a registrant should move to an inactive voter status. At that point in time, the jurisdiction clerk should implement a program to identify if the voter is still a resident at the address. There are multiple means to make this happen, such as a mail verification or in person canvass.

It was quite baffling for the team to find 95,287 Oakland County registrants have not voted since 2013 and still marked in active status for the 2020 election. This represents 9.18% of the total registrations in Oakland County.

The QVF maintenance process allows for inactive voters to sit on the rolls.

Voters Registered More than Once:

The final analysis, of the QVF, was to find duplicate registrations of an individual citizen. A duplicate registration is when a citizen with the same first/middle/last name and date of birth are found in the QVF.

Through the analysis of Oakland County, 2783 individual voters had 5586 registrations. This totals to 2803 duplicate registrations.

The QVF maintenance process allows for duplicate registrations.

Findings:

Over the course of this article, many technicalities and numbers have been shared. Below, a table has been constructed to show the cumulative findings of the Oakland County canvass.

Subject	Registrants	Nov 3, 2020 Votes
Illegitimate Addresses	4,600	2,175
Change of Address	3,569	3,569
Applications Pre-Election		
Digitally Canvassed Moved or	1,715	1,715
Non-Existent Pre-Election		
Inactive Voters	95,287	-
Duplicates	2,803	-
Total	107,974	7,459

Total Registrants to be challenged 107,974 = 10.4% of registrations

The election system in place enables bloating of voter roles and is challenging for clerks to maintain. The EIF Oakland County team is moving forward to challenge the registrations of all 107,974 registrants. It is the hope, that clerks will collaborate to set up cleaning programs on the voter rolls. It is unacceptable for the government to maintain records to have a 10.4% error rate, when it comes to electing public servants.

Contested Votes

While the canvass displayed a whopping number of quality issues for registrations, it also brought to light contested votes. These contested votes are from addresses that do not comply with MI election law, NCOA filings for out of county moves pre-election, and digitally canvassed moves pre-election. Oakland Counties 7,459 records do not make sense. These votes should be audited for validity.

This number of 7,459 might seem small, added below is a calculation to conceptualize it, if all of the votes were identified as fraudulent.

7,459 instances of voter fraud X (1000\$) = 7.459 million in fines

7,459 instances of voter fraud X (93 days jail-time) = 693,687 days jail-time

The EIF Oakland County team is contacting the local clerks to help clean up voter roles. We strive to identify gaps in the voting process that allow for loss of custody and open the door to fraud.

Path Forward:

Moving forward, it is essential that all citizens start to take part in the election process and learn it's intricacies. For, as stewards of the government, it is our responsibility to ensure these elections are run fairly, without fraud.

If you are looking to talk to the local county clerk or sheriff, here are demands for future elections.

1. No election tabulation machines to count votes. Hand count only.
2. No absentee ballot's for all, only for military and those with chronic illness.
3. No drop boxes, all absentee votes must be delivered to clerk with ID check.
4. All absentee ballot envelopes must go through signature verification with QVF file.
5. One day election, with in person voting.
6. Toss current QVF files. Make registration necessary every 2 years to maintain eligibility.

Join us in improving the current system, so that integrity can be brought back to Michigan!