

# The Detroit News

## Opinion: Prop 2 allowed for a more accessible and safe primary election

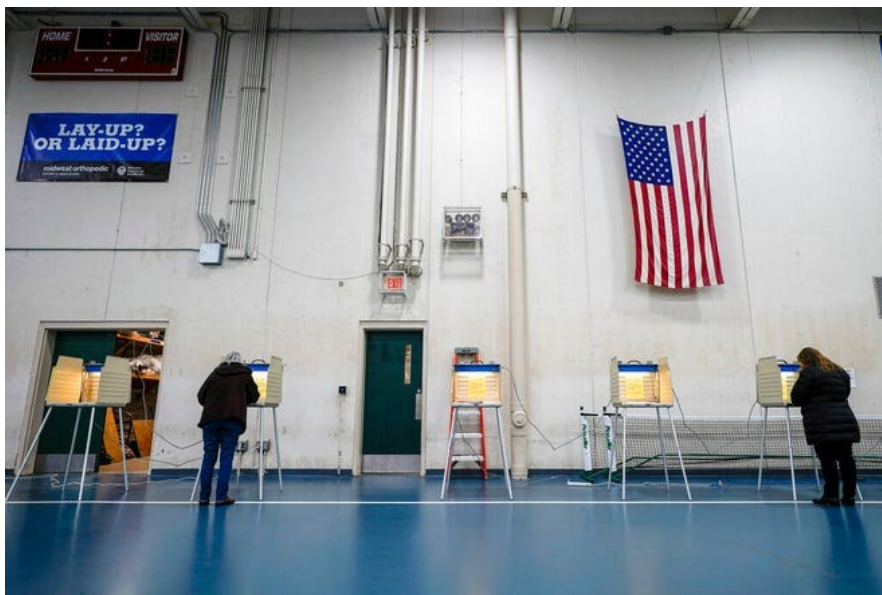
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Michigan's Feb. 27 presidential primary was historic — although you may not realize it.

It was the first-time voters exercised new rights statewide since approving [Proposal 2](#), a 2022 constitutional amendment. Thanks to the change, clerks administered a statewide election with nine days of early voting and counted military and overseas ballots if they were postmarked by Election Day. Voters experienced more convenience using absentee ballots and found additional secure drop boxes to deposit them. Experts and voters alike give the clerks and election inspectors high marks for successfully enacting these reforms within such a short time frame.



These reforms help ensure that every voice is heard and every vote is counted in Michigan elections, no matter what political party or candidate we support, where we live or what we look like. In the Feb. 27 election, 1,879,003 votes were cast, including 78,000 from voters who visited an early voting site and more than 934,000 who returned an absentee ballot, according to the Secretary of State.

That's nearly two million voters from across the state who participated in our democracy because it was more accessible and convenient for them to do so. Proposal 2 recognized the fundamental right to vote without harassing conduct, and we're seeing swift action on bad actors who try to intimidate voters.

As co-presidents of the nonpartisan League of Women Voters of Michigan, we believe voting is critical to the integrity of our democracy. That's why for more than 100 years, the League has advocated for every person's right to participate.

We are proud that Proposal 2 passed in 2022. And we are grateful to Michigan lawmakers, the Bureau of Elections and especially to local clerks, all of whom helped implement the proposal and administered a successful presidential primary.

The process of certifying election results by Boards of Canvassers at the county level and state level was also strengthened by Proposal 2, which required canvass boards to certify election results based only on the official records of votes cast and guaranteed that only election officials could conduct post-election audits.

Proposal 2 enhanced election integrity, security and transparency by modernizing how we administer elections to ensure every vote counts. The Feb. 27 presidential primary was proof of this.

As we look forward to more elections in August and November, we urge everyone to be informed before you vote. Take advantage of the League's VOTE411 – an online information source about candidates and proposals on the ballot, as well as other useful election information.

Exercise the right to participate in our democracy.

Paula Bowman and Denise Hartsough are co-presidents of the League of Women Voters of Michigan.