WHEREAS, State constitutional amendments to strengthen voting rights and ballot access were submitted to, and overwhelmingly approved by, Michigan voters as Proposal 18-3 at the November 6, 2018 general election; and

WHEREAS, current state legislative efforts in Michigan put ballot access at risk for vulnerable populations and walk back many of the popular reforms that have resulted in historic turnout in Michigan elections; and

WHEREAS, the Secure MI Vote ballot initiative seeks to use a portion of the Michigan Constitution to enact proposed legislation without a vote of the electorate. Many Michigan voters may not realize the impact of signing the petition could potentially allow a small minority of voters to help the Legislature pass “veto-proof” legislation, restricting voter rights; and

WHEREAS, the Secure MI Vote initiative includes some of the most restrictive portions of a 39-bill election reform package introduced earlier this year in the Michigan Legislature, including restrictions on absentee voting, stricter ID laws and limits on volunteer support of elections; and

WHEREAS, Lansing City Council supports equitable and easier access to the ballot box through federal and state standards around early voting, absentee voting, and voter registration.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Lansing City Council encourages residents to decline to sign the Secure MI Vote petition, understand that a constitutional loophole in our referendum process could result in legislative enactment, rather than a ballot proposal that goes to the voters.