



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

June 16, 2020

**DEADLINE ESTABLISHED FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS
 REGARDING PETITION SUMMARY**

**STATEWIDE BALLOT PROPOSAL SPONSORED BY
 UNLOCK MICHIGAN**

Under Michigan election law, the sponsor of an initiative, referendum, or constitutional amendment petition may request approval of the summary of the purpose of the petition prior to placing the petition in circulation. MCL 168.482b(1), as amended by 2018 PA 608. If a petition sponsor avails itself of this optional process, a summary of the proposal’s purpose must be prepared by the Director of Elections and presented to the Board of State Canvassers (Board) for its approval or rejection. MCL 168.482b(2), as amended by 2018 PA 608. The deadline for the Board to approve or reject the content of the petition summary is the 30th day following the petition sponsor’s submission. MCL 168.482b(1).

If the Board approves the petition summary as prepared by the Director of Elections, the sponsor must print the full text of the approved summary in 12-point type in the heading of the petition and the Board will be barred from considering a subsequent challenge alleging that the summary is misleading or deceptive. MCL 168.482(3), 168.482b(1), (3). Further, if the Board subsequently certifies that the petition contains a sufficient number of valid signatures to qualify for placement on the ballot, the Director of Elections and Board are authorized to draft and approve ballot wording that differs from the petition summary. Opinion of the Attorney General No. 7310 (May 22, 2019).

The “summary of the purpose of the proposed amendment or question” prepared by the Director of Elections may be up to 100 words in length and must consist of a true and impartial statement in language that does not create prejudice for or against the proposal. MCL 168.482b(2), as enacted by 2018 PA 608. Additionally, the summary must inform signers of the subject matter of the petition but need not be legally precise, and shall use words having a common, everyday meaning to the general public. *Id.*

On June 12, 2020, **Unlock Michigan** submitted a request for approval of the content of the petition summary. A copy of the full text of the proposed initiated law is attached to this announcement. **The Director of Elections is inviting public comments regarding the summary of the purpose of this proposed initiative petition, including submissions of suggested language, as follows:**

<i>Deadline for submission of suggested petition summary and/or explanatory materials to staff:</i>	June 23, 2020, 5:00 p.m.
<i>Date of Board of State Canvassers meeting at which summaries will be considered:</i>	To be announced.
<i>Deadline for Board of State Canvassers to approve or reject the summary of the content of the petitions:</i>	July 13, 2020.

Submissions may be made via email (elections@michigan.gov), U.S. Mail (P.O. Box 20126, Lansing, Michigan 48901), or hand delivery (address provided below). **Submissions must be received in this office by the date and time specified in order to be considered.**