



# PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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October 26, 2022

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### **Menacing voters at ballot drop boxes or elections officials is a crime**

MOUNT CLEMENS, MI - Macomb County Prosecutor Peter J. Lucido today announced his office will not hesitate to criminally charge, or refer to the Michigan Attorney General for charges, anyone who menaces voters at a ballot dropbox or menaces an election worker.

"Everyone should feel safe exercising their voting rights," said Lucido. "President Theodore Roosevelt was right when he said, 'A vote is like a rifle: its usefulness depends upon the character of the user.' Let's show Macomb County's character by not menacing election workers or voters at ballot boxes. Election workers should be treated as heroes."

Macomb County Clerk Anthony Forlini agrees that any person should report any threats or menacing behavior to the police.

Under Michigan law it is a felony to attempt by, "menace, or other corrupt means or device, either directly or indirectly, to influence an elector in giving his or her vote, or to deter the elector from, or interrupt the elector in giving his or her vote at any election held in this state." MCL 168.932(a).

The Detroit Free Press this week reported Michigan is one of several states targeted by an organization that recruits citizen election monitors in ways election experts worry blurs the lines between lawful oversight and vigilantism.

In Arizona, elections officials have worried that bands of activist observers hunting for fraud will harass and intimidate voters. The Arizona Secretary of State recently referred a matter to the U.S. Justice Department and the Arizona Attorney General.

The Macomb County Prosecutor's office represents the people. We are committed to achieving justice and following the laws of the state of Michigan.

All that are accused of a crime are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.