Response to “Lights Out”
July 11, 2022
Marie McKenna-Wicks

● Anne Hill: Volunteer data analyst for Pure Integrity Michigan Elections (PIME) and Election Integrity Fund, both of which continue to spread debunked claims about the 2020 Election. She holds two degrees from Northwood University whose famous alum include failed gubernatorial candidate Dick DeVos. She was assisted by Patrice Johnson who is the founder of PIME and is a resident of Stockbridge.

● Anne Hill does not appear to have any relevant background in elections yet makes outright claims of anomalies and of 1,936 “ineligible votes cast”. She gratuitously uses statements such as “East Lansing Voter Anomalies Any Town USA” as the header for a chart claiming to demonstrate alleged anomalies and implying that these claims can be extrapolated to apply to other jurisdictions. She uses words like “ineligible” or “illegitimate” throughout without any definition of what that means and as though her statements are matters of fact. She appears to deride the East Lansing Clerk for perceived shortcomings of the Qualified Voter File (QVF) without any knowledge of what actions related to updating voter records are appropriate or even permitted by law.

● Anne makes much of “erroneous registrations” and “illegitimate” voters and addresses due to the closure of the dorms in 2020. As you read this information and my comments, please keep in mind that these students registered lawfully. Yes, the dorms closed but by Anne’s logic, students shouldn’t be able to vote from their “home” address once they have lived at school for more than 30 days. The system is not perfect but people can’t vote twice without getting caught, and the clerk cannot simply cancel voter registrations with the prescribed notification/verification process.

● It should be alarming, as it is to me, that an East Lansing resident is so adamantly targeting students for the most part.

● Please note that the Bureau of Election documents referenced below are available to the public including Anne at Election administrator information (michigan.gov).

I apologize that this is not a pretty document but hopefully the source information I am providing partially or fully refutes the uninformed claims made by Anne.
Claim: Addresses are invalid and that only military voters are eligible to vote absentee from overseas and Canada:

**ANOMALIES:**

**Address of record is an invalid address.** An invalid address includes vacant lots; non-residential buildings (e.g., office buildings, restaurants, post office, retail or convenience stores, and warehouse); the street exists but the street number does not; or a street with that name does not exist. There were 165 registered voters listed at an invalid address. These include:

**Address of Record is a post office.** The address of record for eight registered voters was a post office address. Two people voted in person and one absentee.

**Address of Record is a vacant lot.** The address of record for ten registered voters was a vacant lot. One voted in person.

**Address of Record is a non-existent street number.** The address of record for 41 registered voters was a non-existent street number. The street exists, but that street number does not exist (verified by BSAonline and Google maps). Eight voted absentee and three voted in person.

**Address of Record is a non-existent street.**

**Cherry Lane** was listed on the index of the map provided by the city but could not be found with the location index data. A call to the clerk’s office revealed that the street was demolished at least ten (10) years earlier and another housing development was constructed on the site. Cherry Lane no longer exists and has not existed for more than ten years. However, the QVF file listed 50 eligible voters as registered to this street at various numbers, many of which displayed apartment extensions.

Moreover, the History File shows that 15 of these registered voters voted absentee in the Nov. 3, 2020, general election. When asked how this could be, the city clerk’s response was that these residents may have been military personnel who were overseas. Military personnel are permitted to use their last U.S. address indefinitely as long as they are in the service. However, on review of the birth years of these individuals, most were past the mandatory retirement age of the U.S. military (64 years of age).

**Spartan Village** is an apartment complex on MSU’s campus. It is used for visiting scholars who typically stay three months to less than one year. The complex is located on Middlevale Road. There is no street named Spartan Village. However, 23 registered voters’ record of address is a street address of Spartan Village. Ten voted absentee.

**University Village** is an apartment complex on MSU’s campus served by Garden City Road. There is no street named University Village. Eight registered voters’ record of address is a street address of University Village. Seven voted absentee.
Response: It is clearly stated below that protected voters (MOVE) include overseas military AND civilians. They cannot vote without a US address and under federal law are able to legally maintain access to the franchise.

INTRODUCTION TO MILITARY AND OVERSEAS VOTERS

The Military and Overseas Voters Manual for Election Administrators is designed to cover all aspects of the handling of voter registrations, absentee ballot requests, and absentee ballots for military and overseas voters.

In 1986, the federal government passed the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) providing special registration and absentee voting provisions for military and overseas civilians. In addition, UOCAVA authorized the use of the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB). The Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) was created by the Department of Defense to oversee UOCAVA. In 2009 the federal Military and Overseas Empowerment Act (MOVE Act) and corresponding state legislation was passed expanding UOCAVA by further allowing a UOCAVA voter to submit one AV application for a calendar year, ballot(s) to be sent to the UOCAVA voter via email or fax, establishing a 45-day absent voter ballot delivery requirement, and expanding the use of the FWAB. In 2012, the state legislature passed PA 279 of 2012 further expanding the use of the FWAB to local and state offices.

Who are Protected Voters?

- Members of a uniformed service on active duty or their dependent
- Members of the Merchant Marine or their dependent
- Civilian voter living overseas
- National Guardsman activated on State orders

Furthermore (emphasis on the second point here):

The protected voter must be absent from his or her jurisdiction of residence and with the exception of the civilian voter living outside of the United States, the voter may be living inside or outside the United States. Each voter must submit his or her own form.

Registration is allowed at the voter’s last known U.S. address, even if someone else is residing at that address or the physical residence is no longer there. The registration form may be received via email, fax, or postal mail.
Information regarding addresses for voters who are homeless and who may list a corner, park bench and the like so they can vote:

Here’s what Michiganders facing homelessness should know about their voting rights, according to the Secretary of State's Office and Michigan Coalition Against Homelessness:

- Individuals experiencing homelessness have a right to vote regardless of housing stability.
- Individuals can register to vote in person without an ID, but they may have to submit a copy of a paycheck stub, utility bill, bank statement or a government document that lists name and address or sign an affidavit.
- When filling out a voter registration form, eligible voters without a permanent home address can list the following as their voting address: a shelter address, a street corner, a park address or an address where they receive mail.
- Voters must be a Michigan resident at the time they register to vote and a resident of their city or township for at least 30 days when they vote. This applies for those who are living in shelters outside of where they registered, too. They can re-register or update their voter registration address at their clerk’s office.

Source: Voting resources now available for Michiganders facing homelessness (freep.com)

Voter Registration Information: (Note: Sometimes voters do list a business as their voter address and when this is questioned, at least in my experience working for BOE, the residency requirement is construed in favor of the voter.)
Addresses used for voter registration purposes are required to be residential addresses. Residence for the purposes of registration and voting is defined according to Michigan election law, as a “place at which a person habitually sleeps, keeps his or her personal effects, and has a regular place of lodging.” All voter registration records entered into the QVF system are matched to the Michigan driver’s license file. When matches are found, the voter’s driver’s license record is flagged. This linkage permits the updating of both files regardless of whether the voter initiates a driver’s license address change or a voter registration address change.

All Michigan drivers are required to use their residential voter registration address for driver’s license purposes. As a result, all voter registration address changes are automatically posted to the driver’s license file. In the event a local clerk enters a change of address for a voter in the Qualified Voter File, the Department of State supplies an address change sticker for their driver license via the mail.

Note: Although all Michigan drivers are required to use the same residential address for both their voter registration and driver’s license records; a Michigan voter is not required to possess a Michigan driver’s license in order to register to vote.

All voter registration application forms produced at Secretary of State Branch Offices are automatically printed with the voter’s name, address, date of birth and other data elements common to the voter’s driver’s license record. Individuals who are currently registered to vote in Michigan that change their Michigan driver’s license address to reflect a move to a new jurisdiction are automatically registered in their new jurisdiction of residence via the link between the Qualified Voter File and Michigan driver’s license file.
Claims of invalid voters and addresses:

**Address of record is a residence sold prior to Sept. 30, 2020.** Using BSAonline.com, each residential property that did not have a rental license had a comparison of the QVF name with the name listed under “Owner Information.” If there was no match, a comparison of registered voters listed in the “Sales History” section was completed. Smartbackgroundchecks.com was used to verify if there was a familial relationship or if the person had lived at the residence and since moved to another location.

A total of 767 registered voters were associated with residences sold more than 30 days prior to the election. They were, therefore, no longer eligible to vote in the election. Of these, six property sales of residences dated back to 1999.

All of these residential houses were sold via conventional warranty deed transfers. One of the properties had another conventional warranty deed sale since the 1999 sale. A second property had two other conventional warranty deed sales since its sale in 1999. Of the six 1999 sales, one registered voter did vote absentee in the Nov. 3, 2020, election.

Of the 767 voter-registrant addresses in which the owner had sold the property prior to Sept. 30, 2020, several subsequent sales transactions (not including Quit Claims or Family Transactions) had occurred, yet the registered voter continued to be listed on the QVF as residing at the no-longer valid address.

Response: This is a lot of pot-stirring over one vote she claims to be illegitimate. It ignores the fact that voters can vote one last time at their former address/precinct if they have moved out of the jurisdiction within the past 60 days and at ANY point if they have moved within the jurisdiction! The latter accounts for many students who move off campus within East Lansing but choose to vote one last time on campus.
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**Processing Voters – Voters Who Have Moved**

**Within the Jurisdiction**
- Vote at old precinct – complete Election Day Change of Address or -
- Vote at new precinct- register with local clerk with residency verification

**To a new jurisdiction**
- Less than 60 days before the election
- Vote at old precinct – complete Authorization to Transfer Voter Registration
  - Vote at new precinct- register with local clerk with residency verification
- More than 60 days before the election:
  - Vote at new precinct- register with local clerk with residency verification

Source: Marie McKenna-Wicks election inspector training power point, 2022

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- If the elector appears to vote and affirms that he or she resides at the new address within the jurisdiction or advises that he or she has moved to a different address within the jurisdiction, the election inspectors issue a regular ballot to the elector. In this case, the election inspectors further direct the voter to complete an Election Day Change of Address Notice/Authorization to Transfer Voter Registration form. The completed notice is returned to the local clerk in the local clerk envelope following the close of the polls. The new address is then entered into the QVF following the election and an updated voter information card is forwarded to the voter that reflects the new information.
Comment related to claim above:

The clerk was asked how this could happen since real estate transactions are processed through the Assessor’s Office, located in the same building as the clerk’s office. The response was that the prior owner of the property had not informed her office that they had sold the property and moved to another address.

Response: This comment is astonishing and indicative of Anne’s lack of understanding of how voter registration maintenance is conducted. First of all, it is the responsibility of the voter to change their voting address/driver’s License address. In fact, Anne states as one of her recommendations that the clerk should have mandatory notification that the property has turned over that she should automatically cancel the voter’s registration. As noted below, modifications to the QVF are based on feedback from the voter and in some cases, third parties. Seldom would a clerk cancel a registration without notification from a voter or a returned notification. Canceling versus transferring a voter’s registration also deletes that voter’s history. Below is a sample of the various procedures used to verify voter status.
RETURNED CONFIRMATION NOTICES: If a confirmation notice sent to a voter who has moved within his or her jurisdiction or to a voter who has moved to a different jurisdiction is returned by the post office as “undeliverable,” the following actions are taken:

- The clerk marks the voter’s QVF registration record as “Challenged – Residency.”

- Each election official must then instruct the election inspectors appointed to serve in the voter’s precinct on Election Day to question the voter on his or her residency status if the voter appears to vote. The voter is not required to provide documentation or proof of residence.

Source: II_Voter_Registration.pdf (michigan.gov)
Claim: Duplicate Registrations

Duplicates. There were 105 instances of the same person having two different voter ID numbers and one instance of one person having three voter ID numbers. In one instance a person had four voter ID numbers. These appeared in several different ways with the most common as follows:

- Married vs. maiden name. When a woman was married, the voter ID with her maiden name remained and a new voter ID was issued with her married name. This occurred whether she remained at the same address or not. This was verified using BSAonline.com and Smartbackgroundchecks.com. (This site has a section for also known as, AKAs, or other names this person has gone by). In some instances, the full middle name was listed on the duplicate as only the middle initial. This error occurred in 11 instances.
- Initials vs. full names with address changes. The first, middle, and last name the same, but address changed. The first and last name the same, but one used full middle name and other used middle initial, plus the address changed. The most frequent instances of duplication occurred during moves from a dormitory to an apartment or from one apartment to another. 55 instances.
- Initials vs. full middle name, same address. First and last name the same and address the same, but one had full middle name and other had middle initial. 9 instances.
- First, middle, and last name the same AND address the same. In most instances, the registration date was the same. 9 instances.

Response: Local clerks check for duplicates when entering a voter registration (it is the first step in the QVF). The BOE also works on merging duplicate registrations. Duplicates can occur when there is a discrepancy in, and/or, between the driver file/QVF. If a voter with a duplicate record (by the way, they likely would have no knowledge of the duplicate registration) were to vote twice, it would be apparent once the voter history was exported from the Pollbook to the QVF. This voter would be flagged by BOE and then referred to their county prosecuting attorney.
Claim: Clerk was responsible for ineligible voting and possibility of “duplicate” voting.

**Closed Dorms.** Nineteen of MSU’s 27 dorms were closed. There were 1,738 voters on the QVF file registered to an address of one of the closed dorms. Of those with addresses of a closed dorm, 124 voted absentee, and 102 voted in person.

The QVF showed no alternate address for any of these voters registered to an ineligible dorm address. Of those recorded as voting absentee from the closed dorm address, multiple registered voters were not listed as having a room number.

When asked how someone could vote absentee from the address of a closed dorm, the clerk stated that the voter probably came to the clerk’s office to pick up an absentee ballot or went online and requested the ballot be sent to another address. However, none of these actions were recorded on the QVF, and the clerk said she did not know if this was the case. She indicated she did not follow up to verify any of the hypothetical situations.

It is unknown if these individuals duplicated their votes by voting in their hometowns over the summer or from new addresses in the greater Lansing area.

Response: As mentioned earlier, these voters may have moved off campus and would still have been eligible to vote one last time at the campus precinct. The fact that they were not registered elsewhere proves that they couldn’t have voted anywhere else as Anne seems to imply in the last point. I’m not sure what “actions” Anne thought should be “reported” in the QVF. Based on the QVF, we know who voted, where they voted and whether they voted in person or absentee. As with other comments regarding the clerk, the tone is condescending and reflects a lack of understanding of what actions the clerk can take. The clerk’s response was entirely appropriate.
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Claim: The voter rolls are bloated by about a half million voters over the course of a four-year cycle.

It is natural to expect a much higher rate and continual movement of these people compared to jurisdictions without a college or university. In fact, Clerk Chris Swope, of the Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks and the Council of Election Officials, stated in his testimony before the Michigan Senate Election Committee on Sept.1, 2021, “There are other situations, such as University towns that end up pushing that limit, because every year primarily a quarter of the kids move away, and so many of them we don’t get processed out.”

According to Univstats, “At Michigan colleges, there are 537,083 students, including 458,713 undergraduate and 78,370 graduate schools’ students in total for academic year 2020-2021.” (https://www.univstats.com/states/michigan/student-population/)

With approximately 25% of the students on the permanent absent voter list becoming ineligible every year, over a four-year election cycle, the permanent absent voter list would gain approximately 537,083 ineligible student voters.

Response: The basis for her calculations is flawed. 1. Not all students, by a long shot, are on the permanent AV List. 2. QVF does not track student/non-student status, only age. 3. Many students are not US citizens and therefore ineligible to vote. 4. Many out-of-state students stay registered in their home states rather than registering at school.

Claim: Citing no proof, asserting that there are over 5K “erroneously recorded registered voters.”

With approximately 25% of the students on the permanent absent voter list becoming ineligible every year, over a four-year election cycle, the permanent absent voter list would gain approximately 537,083 ineligible student voters.

The core issue to address is: How to clean up the voter rolls, especially in regard to high college voter turnover rate of residents migrating off campus and out of the state each year?

The November 2020 QVF recorded 5,718 registered voters, confirmed using the methods described above, as residing at incorrect addresses. These erroneously recorded registered voters had moved, and the listed address was no longer their residence. Of these, 1,043 voted absentee and 429 voted in person.

The age groups of these individuals breaks down as follows: 18 to 30 years old, 2,770; 31 to 40 years old, 1,750; 41 to 50 years old, 532; and over 50 years old, 666.
Response: The term “erroneous” means “containing errors.” Just because Anne cannot explain how these voters may have legally cast a ballot, does not mean there is an error in the voter’s registration. Anne also fails to note the age of those who voted, versus the “erroneous list of 5,718. According to her own “research” older students typically move off campus. Did these voters move off campus into East Lansing, in which case, they could vote one last time on campus (see above)?

Claim: “Dead People Vote” and addresses without room numbers are invalid.

Deceased. There were 58 registered voters deceased before Sept. 1, 2020. Of those deceased, six are listed as voting absentee, even though they passed away at least nine months prior to the November 2020 election. Two passed away in 2014, two in 2019, and two in 2020 (between January and March). The oldest registered voter on the QVF has a birth year of 1896, which would make that person an incredible 124 or 125 years of age.

Another type of invalid address was found in multi-unit residential properties such as apartment complexes, senior housing, convalescent centers, dormitories, or other residential properties. These have room numbers or apartment numbers. For the post office to deliver an absentee ballot, addressees must have an apartment or room number.

Response: Clerks work diligently to remove deceased voters from the rolls using “reliable information” such as obituaries, notice from families (which is still confirmed) and vital records from the county clerk. As we know, most often if the ballot of a deceased person is counted, it is because they passed between voting the ballot and the election. If the clerk learns a voter has passed, they do indeed remove the ballot and “reject” it in the QVF. If Anne believes that a ballot has been voted fraudulently in this regard, her duty is to report it to law enforcement. To the second point, addresses missing room numbers and the like are not “invalid.” This is laughable. I am not aware of any such requirement in the law and it would be unconscionable to disenfranchise a voter for this reason. I honestly can’t recall any voter communication being returned because of a missing room number. Again, she carelessly tosses around the term “invalid.”
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Claim: Voters are “unverified.”

The quantities of registered voters associated with invalid addresses due to multi-unit addresses without extension numbers like apartment or room numbers were too large for this report to attempt to capture. It should be noted, however, that many of these unverified registered voters cast absentee ballots and voted in person.

Response: If a voter registered AND voted, they are indeed “verified.” The term “verification” does carry specific meaning in the lexicon of elections and Anne either fails to understand this, or she does and is, without basis, casting doubt on the legitimacy of these voters. In my experience, if there is missing information on a voter registration, clerks seek clarification. It should also be noted that the address system on campus is complicated and students don’t always have all the information when they register. Also if they are registered, it means their address has been identified in the QVF. This, again, would never be used to disenfranchise a voter.

THE STATEWIDE STREET INDEX: The statewide street index is the foundation for the QVF system. The street index is a database that contains all known addresses within the state and the political districts and subdivisions that correspond to each address. All voter registration addresses entered into the QVF are automatically matched against the addresses contained within the street index. It is by matching these addresses that the QVF system can accurately identify and forward each voter registration transaction to the proper jurisdiction subsequently assigning the voter to the appropriate Congressional District, State Senate District, State House District, County Commission District, School District, Library District among other taxing authorities which the voter is entitled to vote based on their residence. Maintaining an accurate street index is critical to ensuring the accuracy of the QVF and for ensuring the accuracy of the precinct lists that are used at the polls on Election Day.

Source: Il_Voter_Registration.pdf (michigan.gov)
Final Recommendations of the Report:

1. When properties are sold or deeds transferred, the register of deeds should be required to notify the clerk’s office. The clerk should be required to remove a voter’s name from that no-longer valid address.
2. To clean up the voter rolls, especially in regard to high college-voter turnover and residents migrating off campus and out of the state each year, college graduates and USPS National Change of Address information should be monitored and acted on annually in every college town.
3. Clerks in college or university towns should work with owners or management of multi-unit housing and the college or university to educate students of the need to notify the clerk’s office when they move.
4. The state should develop a more robust process for notifying local clerks when a registered voter is deceased. These notifications are especially important when the death occurs out of state or out of the decedent’s county of residence.
5. Michigan should exit at once ERIC, the Electronic Registration Information Center.

1. I don’t support the first part of this recommendation as mandatory. The vast majority of voters will change their Driver’s License address (which will change the voter address) on their own. To me this is needless effort for very little return. As to the second point, it is unnecessary (see my first point) and inappropriate to cancel a voter registration without feedback, consent or documentation from THE VOTER. As mentioned earlier, this also cuts off the voter’s history. Also, what if the home is sold but occupancy occurs at a later date? What if when a home is sold, the seller continues to live at the residence permanently? The reason for notices and verification is to account for these circumstances, to be able to continue the voter history where a transfer is warranted and most importantly, to preserve the voter’s access to the ballot! (And it is not the job of the clerk to stalk voters on every platform imaginable.)

2. This recommendation is absurd. USPS may have mailing address information but that does not necessarily accord with voter registration information. This recommendation also seems to imply that clerks are responsible for poring through changes of mailing addresses and canceling registrations accordingly. Again, voters are responsible for maintaining their registration record.

3. Uh. No. In 2013 or thereabouts, then-mayor Triplett and I got an ordinance passed to required landlords to provide voter registration information at move-in. The notion that clerks and landlords have the time or mandate to instruct students to notify the clerk when they move is absurd! That objective is in fact, accomplished when students register.
4. The State, counties and locals do a great job with this. The use of ERIC will assist with this.
5. The Electronic Registration Information Center can address many if not most of the concerns related to deceased voters and voters who have moved out of state. I believe that there is no prior mention in this report of ERIC so Anne does not make it clear we should exit the system….BUT……….Patrice Johnson says they are funded by Soros and blah blah blah. She also claims that we pay “millions of dollars” every year. Actually, initial membership is 25K with average dues of 16-74K. The Board of Directors consists of election directors of each member state. ERIC has the ability to inform of us dead voters, eligible voters, voters who have moved and more.

Who We Are (ericstates.org)

Thanks, Todd, for giving me the opportunity to refute Anne Hill’s BS claims and to basically take out my rage over election misinformation and deniers. Anne is cunning, clearly. She puts forth theories as though they are fact and uses inflated numbers (and by the way, she may have been working with a voter list that included both inactive and active voters) to suggest that students are voting illegally and fraudulently, and that the clerk isn’t doing her job. She uses hyperbole to inflate her false claims and to strike an emotional chord with the receptive reader. I am sure I have missed lot but I did my best. 😊 Feel free to use anything I have written.