

Four years ago you endorsed my nomination for secretary of state, which was a critical step in my being elected Michigan's 43rd secretary of state. To have your endorsement in 2018 was a great honor. Today I stand before you, again, asking you to endorse me for a second, four-year term.

In 2018 no one imagined what awaited us. First, a global pandemic erupted that forced us to rethink how we do business – including how we conduct elections. Then, came the most frightening thing of all: A war against democracy that wages on today.

Against all odds we have delivered on our promises, including making it easier to vote. After all, when voters approved a constitutional guarantee giving every voter the right to cast an absentee ballot that was their message: It should be easier to vote, so we:

- Launched ways to engage underrepresented voters, particularly in areas where voter participation rates are low.
- Modernized Michigan's voter registration system, making it easier to register to vote, authorizing voter registration online and implementing automatic voter registration for all eligible citizens and in-person voter registration on Election Day.
- Developed and led the state's first campaign to recruit a new generation of poll workers, resulting in over 30,000 new election workers throughout the state.
- Helped provide and place over 1,000 secure drop boxes in hundreds of communities, ensuring all voters can return their ballot conveniently, safely and securely.
- And, we sent applications for absentee ballots to every voter on file and made that application available online and downloadable.

The end result? The 2020 Presidential election was the safest, most secure election in Michigan history with more than 5.5 million Michigan voters casting ballots. It shattered turnout records and hundreds of audits confirmed the election's accuracy.

I believe democracy works best when government works for every citizen. When I took office I visited very one of our motor vehicle offices and what I found were people standing around, sometimes for hours, waiting to be served. I was determined that would be no more.

As Michigan's chief motor vehicle officer, I took a hands-on approach and replaced the antiquated 'take-a-ticket and wait' system of serving drivers and vehicle owners. We implemented technology upgrades and engaged our staff on how we could do better. Today, 60 percent of all transactions are processed online, up from just 28 percent in 2018. And when people come into our offices to process a transaction they are in-and-out, on average, in 20 minutes.

Friends, our work is not done. Further, we know the other side is going to nominate a conspiracy theorist and election denier who has been endorsed by former President Donald Trump, who is actively supporting her candidacy. We also know that person's goal will be to make it harder to vote, not easier.

Yes, Michigan voters will have a clear choice in November: They can re-elect me who promises to be a champion for democracy by continuing to protect every vote and every voice. OR they can elect someone who has unabashedly sought to nullify the will of the people to take control of Michigan elections.

Make no mistake, the stakes are high.

I am the number one targeted incumbent secretary of state seeking re-election this year. It's going to be a tough race and a tough election, but I'm ready.

But first, I need your endorsement so I can continue fighting and working for you, the voter. As long as I am your secretary of state no one is going to take away your right to vote, or suppress your right to be heard.

To learn more about my campaign visit. www.votebenson.com

Thank you!