



Michigan Fair Elections Institute
(MFEI)

Annual Report 2025

by



Contact: Patrice@mifairelections.org

MFEI 2025 Annual Report

Board of Directors*

Chair, Patrice Johnson
Secretary, Becky Weddon
Treasurer, James Johnson
Dee Davey
Janine Iyer
Cheryl Pezon
Alex Weddon

Mission Statement

Restore and preserve election integrity through a permanent infrastructure of statewide operations via local chapters and task forces.

Committee Leaders

Audits: Jeff Schaeper & Mark Vaeth
County Chapters: Kathy Mann
Clerk Advocate: Alan Dunst
Communications: Kristine Christlieb
Data Services: Isaac Hampshire
DEEP: Doug Basberg
Events: Sheree Ritchie
Fundraising: Kelsey Rasmussen
Oversight: Dee Davey
Legislative: Dee Davey & Sheree Ritchie
Ranked Choice Voting: Darlene Hennessy
Social Media: Tracy Owens
Underserved Voter Outreach Team
Engagement: Darlene Hennessy

*Giving Statement

We are proud that 100% of MFEI's Board members are volunteers who made a personal donation in 2025 — a reflection of their deep belief in this work.

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To learn more about Michigan Fair Elections Institute (MFEI) go to www.mifairelections.org/

Letter from the Chair



Dear Friend,

Since its founding just three-and-a-half years ago, the Michigan Fair Elections Institute (MFEI) has become the state’s leading election integrity organization. As a nonprofit 501(c)(3), and with its affiliate Pure Integrity Michigan Elections (PIME), a 501(c)(4), MFEI is renowned for grassroots efforts across Michigan.

Every citizen deserves one undiluted vote. Inaccurate voter rolls undermine confidence in election outcomes and create vulnerabilities that responsible oversight must address. As a key swing state, Michigan has repeatedly been the testing ground for election policy changes with national implications.

Credit belongs to MFEI’s dedicated volunteers and to generous donors like you. Together, MFEI supporters safeguard individual rights and our constitutional republic. Independent legal scholars and respected voices in election law have taken notice. As an example, William Wagner, Professor Emeritus of Law, wrote in support of a recent MFEI investigative report, “I hold the team at the Michigan Fair Elections Institute in high regard. They bring together serious intellectual rigor with a steadfast, principled commitment to election integrity. That kind of disciplined thinking, anchored in conviction, is both rare and deeply needed.”

MFEI operates on the principle that talented individuals achieve extraordinary results when they work as a team toward shared, research-based goals. Our proven model now engages over 2,500 volunteers in half of Michigan’s 83 counties.

The stakes could not be higher in the 2026 election. This pivotal contest will profoundly shape Michigan’s leadership and influence our nation. Voters will decide 13 U.S. House seats, a U.S. Senate seat, the Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, all 110 state Representatives, all 38 state Senators, two Michigan Supreme Court Justices, plus numerous university boards, county commissioners, and local offices.

MFEI remains steadfast in restoring essential safeguards to protect election integrity. As we move into 2026, we stand ready to achieve new milestones in securing fair, transparent elections statewide. Our 2025 progress stemmed from generous gifts of time, expertise, and financial support from volunteers and donors like you.

We hope you’ll stand with us again to turn this year’s ambitious goals into reality.

For election integrity,

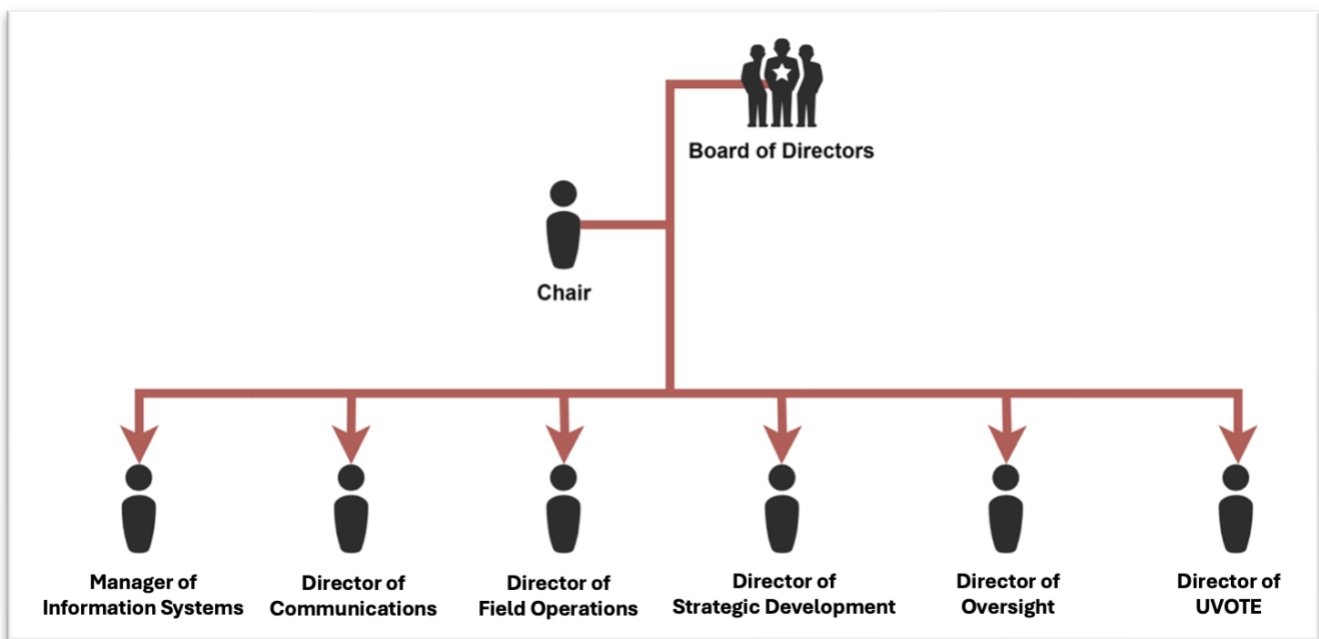
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patrice Johnson".

Patrice Johnson, Chair
Michigan Fair Elections Institute

Executive Summary

This *Annual Report 2025* reviews MFEI’s key accomplishments according to its two foundational pillars: Election Oversight and Educational Outreach. Find the electronic version of this Annual Report on MFEI’s free library with active links: <https://www.mifairelections.org/library>.

MFEI is known for its ability to respond quickly and effectively to emerging situations. The process works like this: Volunteers in MFEI’s Election Oversight efforts investigate election integrity issues and become involved in election processes. Then MFEI’s Educational Outreach volunteers verify the findings, work to create public awareness, and take steps to remedy the issues.



Committees by Pillar:

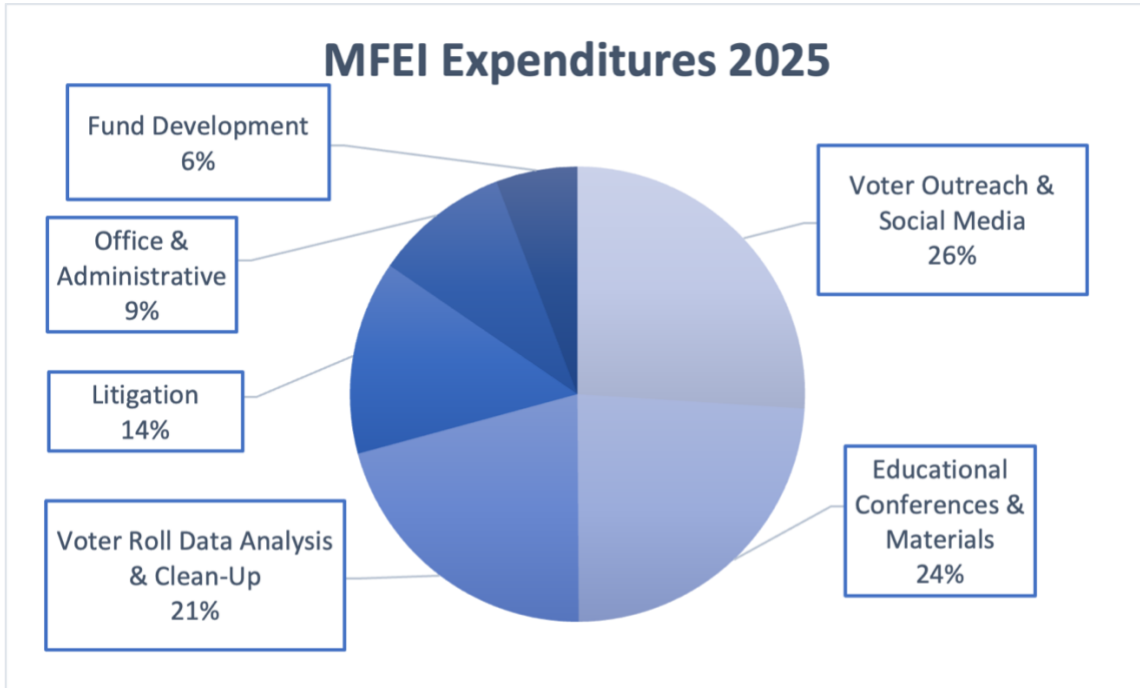
- **Election Oversight**
 - Legislative
 - Oversight
 - Litigation
 - Data Evaluation of Election Processes (DEEP)

- **Educational Outreach**
 - Communications
 - Local Task Forces and Chapters
 - Original Investigative Reports
 - Underserved Voter Outreach Team Engagement (UVOTE)

Financial Report

MFEI 2025 EXPENDITURES

Category	Expense
Voter Outreach & Social Media	42,460
Educational Conferences & Materials	39,029
Voter Roll Data Analysis & Clean-Up	34,072
Litigation	22,500
Office & Administrative	15,740
Fund Development	9,461
Total	\$ 163,262



MFEI 2025 Achievement Highlights

Protecting Election Integrity through Legal and Policy Victories

- The Supreme Court of the United States cited MFEI's legal brief and used its “competitive playing field” argument to frame its decision in the landmark [Bost v. IL State Board of Elections](#) case, establishing candidates’ standing to challenge vote-counting procedures.
- **Shaped federal election policy:** MFEI’s [Title 52 Reform Recommendations](#) and [Request for EAC OIG Assessment of Audit Risk](#) were hand-delivered to the White House prior to the signing of Executive Order 14248. Ten specific provisions in the EO closely mirror MFEI’s recommendations, including identical statutory citations and nearly word-for-word policy language.
- **Active litigation defending voter rights:** MFEI has three FOIA lawsuits in progress. The organization filed two Supreme Court amici briefs—setting legal precedents nationwide.
- **A significant victory for student privacy rights:** MFEI researchers partnered with their Pennsylvania counterparts to expose the illegal transfer of private student data to political vendors (in violation of the Federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, FERPA). The U.S. Department of Education investigated and consequently halted the practice.

Stopping Threats to Fair Elections

- **Ranked Choice Voting:** The MFEI and PIME coalition educated the public on the threat of RCV to the electoral process through strategic voter education. RCV withdrew its petition drive in late 2025, thereby ruling out its placement on Michigan’s 2026 ballot, though its advocates promise to resume the effort.
- **Cleaned voter rolls:** Helped remove 86,000+ ineligible registrations to facilitate accurate and fair elections.

Influencing Legislation & Policy

- **Trusted policy partner:** Michigan legislators regularly consult MFEI as a primary think-tank on election legislation.
- **2025 legislative engagement:** Analyzed 90+ election bills; PIME volunteers testified at 28 hearings (House, Senate, Joint Committee on Administrative Rules (JCAR), Board of State Canvassers, Michigan Dept. of State).

Educating and Mobilizing Voters

- Near-daily election integrity reporting keeps thousands of supporters informed and activated through MFEI news, website, and social media.
- Weekly News@Noon webinars and focused committee meetings maximize MFEI impact.
- 11 investigative reports published (5 in 2025; 4 in 2024; 2 in 2022 & 2023): In-depth research driving transparency and educating the public.

Election Oversight: Legislative Committee

2025 MFEI Legislative Committee Accomplishments

- Legislative committee members analyzed over 90 election-related bills
- Volunteers testified at 28 public hearings (House, Senate, JCAR, Board of State Canvassers, and MI Dept. of State)



MI Dept. of State public hearing on Election Rule Set 2025-013, September 5, 2025. Photo credit: Patrick Colbeck



L to R: Jeff Schaeper, Darlene Hennessy, Patrice Johnson, Sheree Ritchie

Election Oversight: MFEI Oversight Committee

MFEI launched its Oversight Committee in early 2025, and MFEI volunteers quickly assembled a team of election integrity partners with years of research experience.

Goal: Coordinate MFEI’s election integrity partners to investigate, document, and report legally unauthorized election practices in Michigan — and leverage those findings to enable solutions at the state and federal levels.

2025 MFEI Oversight Committee Accomplishments

Documented Michigan’s Most Egregious Election Law Violations

- Compiled and prioritized key election integrity issues, mapping violations to applicable state, federal, and constitutional law
- Developed the *Top Ten Law Violations* report at the request of a senior White House advisor
- Published the landmark 90-page *MFEI Investigation of Michigan Elections (MIME)* report in September 2025
- Followed with two supporting research publications to document scope of issues:
 - *Michigan Voter Roll Maintenance Report* — September 2025
 - *MIME Supplemental Investigation Report: Rule Sets 2025 -013 and -014* — October 2025

Built Key Government Relationships and Federal Channels

- Established formal communication channels with Michigan legislators, the U.S. Department of Justice, and other stakeholders
- Developed relationships at senior levels of state and federal government through MFEI/PIME and partner organizations
- Alerted the White House to a strategic opportunity regarding the replacement of the GAO Comptroller ahead of the December 2025 term expiration

Drove State-Level Accountability

- Provided recommendations to the House Appropriations Committee on auditing the Secretary of State's election processes and addressing voter roll anomalies
- Identified the Fraud Enforcement & Recovery Act (FERA) as a viable mechanism for election law enforcement in Michigan
- Contributed to three MFEI FOIA lawsuits currently in process:
 - [Genesee County Clerk 25-54292-CZ](#) re: legally unauthorized FOIA denial
 - [Bennett v. BOE 25-000135-MZ_15](#) re: Non-Citizens Voting
 - [MFEI v. BOE 25-000179-MZ](#) re: Underlying Absentee Voter Data Records



L to R: Patrice Johnson, MFEI Chair and Founder; State Representative Ann Bollin, Mich. House Appropriations Committee Chair; and Dee Davey, MFEI Director and Leader of MFEI Oversight Committee, at an MFEI Fundraiser, November 2025

Reinforcement by Independent Presentations to the MI House Election Integrity Committee

The following presentations to the House Election Integrity Committee amplified and complemented the MFEI Oversight Committee's findings throughout 2025:

- March 4: Patrice Johnson [MFEI](#)
- March 18: [Election Integrity Force – Chris Kajala; Capital Research Center - Parker Thayer](#)
- March 25: [Pastor Lorenzo Sewell & Ramone Jackson](#)
- April 29: [John Droz](#)
- May 6: [Pastor Sewell, Ramone Jackson & witnesses rebuttal](#)
- May 20: [Erick Kaardal](#)
- June 3: [DEEP Team, Tim Vetter, Braden Giacobazzi](#)
- June 24: [Anti-RCV – Jason Snead, Trent England](#)

Election Oversight: Litigation

2025 Litigation Committee Accomplishments

- The Supreme Court of the U.S. cited MFEI and its partners' [amici curiae](#) in the High Court's decision to grant Writ of Certiorari in the landmark [Bost v. IL State Board of Elections](#) case. This milestone SCOTUS ruling granted candidate standing in an election integrity case. The case opens myriad opportunities for election integrity-related litigation, heretofore rejected on standing and preventing hearing cases based on their merits. Learn more from Erick Kaardal directly in [this video](#) (min. 16 - 27)
- MFEI's [Title 52 Reform Recommendations](#) and [Request for EAC OIG Assessment of Audit Risk](#) directly informed Presidential [Executive Order 14248](#), which mandates citizenship verification, Election Day ballot deadlines, and accurate voter rolls
- MFEI's active litigation defends Michigander voter rights and sets legal precedents nationwide



See MFEI Document Library

Election Oversight: Data Evaluation of Election Processes (DEEP)

MFEI's DEEP team evaluates complex election and voter data for accuracy and consistency with world-class systems and then recommends directions based on state election laws. The goal is to ensure and sustain that every eligible vote—and only eligible votes—are counted, to ensure no citizens' voice is silenced from participating in self-governance of the nation's free society.

2025 DEEP Team Accomplishments

- [Presented election data](#) inaccuracies to House Election Integrity Committee, June 3, 2025.
- **DEEP Team FOIAs and Data Analysis** compared the statement of votes cast to the list of voters for all major elections in 2024
- **Contributed to** multiple MFEI news articles about voter rolls, ballot tabulation, ballot inconsistencies, and counties' responses to requests for election data
- **Discovered** recent loss, within the last year, of the ability to track absentee ballots.
- **Assisted in analysis:** FOIA fulfillment of Detroit's 2020 election

Educational Outreach: Communications

Michigan Fair Elections Institute is the **only** election integrity site regularly publishing original Michigan-based and federal election news content. MFEI publishes original content via news stories, press releases, a weekly News@Noon webinar, a weekly online Election News Roundup, plus breaking news as needed. The MFEI Communications Team’s mission is to report fairly and objectively on election integrity issues and to establish MFEI as the state’s premier and trusted source for election integrity news and information.

2025 Communications Committee Accomplishments

- Increased traffic directly to website
- Provided consistent publishing – 182 articles over 12 months
- Added social media and media relations programs
- Enhanced relationships with other media outlets
- Supported broader MFEI initiatives. Published clerk poll survey results, and launched an eight-part article series in April 2025 on Ranked Choice Voting
- Grew the organization’s free online document library resource
- Redesigned MFEI’s website



Example of the redesigned www.mifairelections.org homepage

Where to Find Us

- MFEI News Webpage: mifairelections.org/news
- MFEI Document Library: <https://www.mifairelections.org/library>
- PIME Videos & News@Noon Recordings: [rumble.com/c/PIME](https://www.rumble.com/c/PIME)
- Instagram: [instagram.com/mifairelections](https://www.instagram.com/mifairelections)
- Facebook: www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100093916870296
- X: x.com/mifairelections
- Truth Social: <https://truthsocial.com/group/michigan-fair-elections>
- TikTok: https://www.tiktok.com/@michiganfairelections?_r=1&_t=ZT-959WEe6mhfj

Educational Outreach: Local Task Forces

2025 Chapter & Task Force Coalition Accomplishments

- **Ranked Choice Voting (RCV):** The MFEI and PIME coalition educated the public on the threat of RCV to the electoral process
- **Field Operations:** Coordinated efforts across Michigan counties to recruit and mobilize volunteers for initiatives including the Underserved Voter Outreach Team Engagement (UVOTE), and more

Statewide Effort to Educate Clerks and Citizens on the Pitfalls of RCV

- The Michigan Association of County Clerks adopted MFEI’s model resolution to *unanimously oppose RCV*
- *MFEI Survey* of Township and Municipal clerks: 79% of responding clerks expressed opposition to RCV
- MFEI volunteers delivered 40+ in-person presentations to groups and community leaders across the state
- Teams distributed thousands of customized talking-point materials
- Conducted 8 online training webinars.
- Conducted statewide summer outreach by circulating educational palm cards at fairs and community events
- Circulated materials to counter Rank MI Vote’s “Bridge the Divide” tour



Darlene Hennessy educates about the pitfalls of Ranked Choice Voting

Educational Outreach: Original Investigative Reports

Discovering and reporting the truth has impact. These **fact-based findings** lay a foundation for MFEI’s legislative analysis and litigation.

Results can take time. For example, one of MFEI’s first reports in 2022, [Lights Out Michigan](#), recently bore fruit when Linda McMahon, the U.S. Secretary of Education, stopped universities from their common practice of sharing the personally-identifiable information (PII) of students with non-governmental agencies, in violation of federal law, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). See [US DoE Feb 5th 2026 Press Release](#).

We are optimistic for similar wins in 2026 against the Michigan Department of State’s Rule Sets 2025-013, -014 and -015 and other legally unauthorized practices.

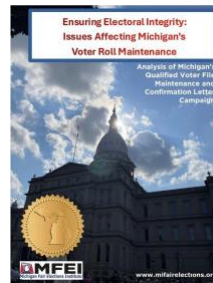
MFEI’s 2025 Original Investigative Reports



[Michigan Clerks Assess the Impact of Ranked Choice Voting](#)
December 2025



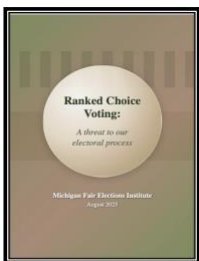
[MIME Supplemental Analysis: Rule Set Changes 13 and 14](#)
October 2025



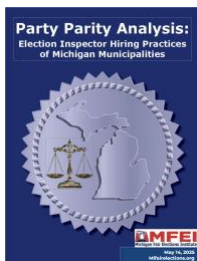
[MFEI Voter Roll Analysis](#)
September 2025



[MFEI Investigation of Michigan Elections \(MIME\)](#)
September 2025



[Ranked Choice Voting: A Threat to Our Electoral Process](#)
August 2025



[Party Parity Analysis: Election Inspector Hiring Practices of MI Municipalities](#)
May 2025



[Michigan Fair Elections Institute 2024 Annual Report](#)
February 2025



View MFEI's free Document Library:
[mifairelections.org/library](https://www.mifairelections.org/library)

Looking Ahead: MFEI's 2026 Strategic Goals

Educate and Mobilize Underserved Voters

Throughout the 2026 election year, MFEI will intensify its outreach to educate voters on key issues affecting election integrity and encourage their participation in the electoral process. Our statewide network of **UVOTE** volunteers will knock on doors, write personalized letters, distribute literature, and make phone calls to reach five categories of low-propensity, underserved voters. MFEI's **Communications Team** will continue educating citizens and partner organizations on relevant issues.

Enhance Voter Roll Maintenance

As ever, MFEI will continue to expand the **Soles to Rolls program (S2R)** to protect eligible citizens' right to have their undiluted vote count in each election. This process entails helping clerks to remove ineligible registrations from the voter rolls, including out-of-state movers and non-citizen registrations. Another priority is to build effective clerk and canvasser relationships, as clerks and county canvassers play important roles in election administration.

Implement Executive Order 14248 in Michigan

Our **county chapter leaders** and **clerk liaisons** plan to collaborate with county and local election officials to carry out citizenship verification, Election Day ballot deadlines, and secure voting processes. Together we plan to leverage MFEI's role in shaping the enforcement of federal law as mandated in the President's Executive Order.

Litigate

Pursue lawsuits when necessary to remedy election law violations, including Secretary Benson's promulgation of Rule Sets 2025-013, -014, and -015, to enforce compliance with state, federal, and constitutional election laws, address legally unauthorized practices, including lax citizenship checks or suppression of citizen participation in elections.

Conclusion & Call to Action

MFEI's core strengths spring from its volunteers' mighty efforts along with the generous support of donors like you. MFEI's structure facilitates its impact and flexibility to respond to emerging issues. Now, as we strategically engage in our 2026 election year objectives, MFEI is positioned to achieve unprecedented heights in restoring integrity to Michigan's elections.

Thank you for making 2025 a success. We invite you to join us and help turn our 2026 goals into reality. **Please stand with us again. Share our educational resources and social media posts.** Invite friends and family to attend our weekly News@Noon webinars to stay informed.

Gratitude

MFEI is deeply grateful to each volunteer and donor. Your gifts of time, talent, and treasure make this important grassroots effort possible. We value each of the hundreds of dedicated volunteers and donors for their unique and vital contributions. Dozens more have contributed yet have not provided express permission for us to share their names, so we respect their privacy by including them as *Anonymous*.

Roster of Contributors

Constitution Guardians: \$30,000-\$49,999

DonorsTrust, Inc.

J Davis and S Davis TTEE

Integrity Champions: \$5,000-\$29,999

Anonymous

Liberty Defenders: \$1,000-\$4,999

Anonymous

Bill and Penny Hammond

Bryce and Susan Metcalfe

Dulce Fuller

James and Patrice Johnson

Janine and Ramesh Iyer

John Lazet

Patricia Lange

Ballot Protectors: Up to \$999

Anonymous

Darlene Hennessy

Franklin Holmes

Kristine Christlieb

Lori Wieber

Mark Smith

Defend the Constitutional Republic.

Join Our Team.

mifairelections.org/volunteer



MFEI Volunteer Awards Potluck, September 2025. Photo Credit: Sheree Ritchie

Spread the Word.

MFEI News Webpage: mifairelections.org/news

MFEI Document Library: <https://www.mifairelections.org/library>

PIME Videos & News@Noon Recordings: [rumble.com/c/PIME](https://www.rumble.com/c/PIME)

Instagram: [instagram.com/mifairelections](https://www.instagram.com/mifairelections)

Facebook: www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100093916870296

X: x.com/mifairelections

Truth Social: <https://truthsocial.com/group/michigan-fair-elections>

Support MFEI.

Donate

mifairelections.org/donate

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