

ALGER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Mary Ann Froberg, Clerk
101 COURT STREET, MUNISING, MI 49862

RESOLUTION #2021-14

**OPPOSING MICHIGAN SECRETARY OF STATE
“BY APPOINTMENT ONLY”**

WHEREAS, Michigan Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson, recently stated Michigan residents will always need an appointment to conduct business at a Secretary of State branch office and suggested making this permanent change as an improvement in service; and

WHEREAS, the Secretary of State called walk in service at the branches an "antiquated, inefficient, take-a-number system that nobody liked"; the reality is that most people do want the option to walk into a branch office for service at *their* convenience; and

WHEREAS, not only Alger County residents but all residents of the State of Michigan should have the ability to renew and make changes to all necessary documentation timely and locally through services provided by the Michigan Secretary of State; that this change will significantly reduce the convenience of public services; and

WHEREAS, while some industry changes were positive during the Covid-19 pandemic and made sense, this will negatively impact rural counties, such as Alger, where residents are over fifty miles from kiosk services and a large majority of the population are over sixty years of age; and

WHEREAS, these changes have been established without input from constituents, who are directly affected by this sweeping change and web-based services, which completely replaces the need for walk in service at the branch offices, many older residents and those without computers or internet will simply be turned away at the Secretary of State door; and

WHEREAS, these changes will only continue to frustrate citizens who would just like their license renewed or to be able to sell a vehicle, without having to wait weeks or months for an appointment or even drive to a different service area to accomplish these simple tasks;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Alger County Board of Commissioners hereby **STRONGLY** opposes 'By Appointment Only', but supports the value of BOTH online and walk in service and believes the best practice for flexibility and choice for the public is a hybrid model for Alger County residents and the entire State of Michigan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Governor Gretchen Whitmer, Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson, Senate and House leaders, and Michigan Association of Counties.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the above is a true copy of a Resolution adopted by the Alger County Board of Commissioners at the time, date, and place specified above pursuant to the required statutory procedures.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Ann Froberg, Alger County Clerk

Dated: June 21, 2021

