



To the Chair and Members of the Hillsdale County Board of Commissioners,

This correspondence follows the January meeting at which I was placed on the agenda pursuant to Article V, Rule 5.13(4) of the Hillsdale County Board of Commissioners Rules of Procedure and By-Laws, which provides that a person desiring to address the Board in an extensive manner shall be placed on the agenda upon timely request. At that meeting, I presented the Demand Letter and Proposed Resolution previously submitted by Hillsdale Conservatives. The Board elected not to deliberate or act on the matter, stating that it would not involve itself because the issues related to an ongoing court case.

Subsequent to that meeting, the Hillsdale County Clerk has issued a public written response addressing the same conduct raised in the Demand Letter and Proposed Resolution. That response asserts factual claims, legal justification, and reliance on an administrative rule to defend actions taken with respect to election records.

This development materially changes the posture of the matter before the Board.

The County Clerk's response was not compelled by any court order, subpoena, or judicial directive. It was a voluntary public act taken in his official capacity addressing his conduct and asserting compliance with law. Once a county officer elects to issue a public defense of actions at issue, the matter is no longer confined to a judicial proceeding. It becomes a governance matter requiring acknowledgment and consideration by the County's governing body.

The Board is not being asked to adjudicate legal questions, determine guilt, or interfere with any court proceeding. The Board is being asked to exercise its governing responsibilities in response to a public statement by a county officer that directly implicates county practices, record retention obligations, and potential county exposure.

For clarity, the Demand Letter and Proposed Resolution request only that the Board acknowledge sworn testimony and completed judicial actions that are part of the public record, ensure preservation of election records as required by state and federal law, and consider appropriate referral or oversight actions within the Board's lawful authority. They do not request conclusions of law, prosecution, or judicial intervention.

Because the Board has now received a public response from the County Clerk addressing the same subject matter, I respectfully request, pursuant to Article V, Rule 5.13(4), that I again be placed on the agenda of the next regular meeting to allow the Board to consider the Demand Letter, Proposed

Resolution, and the Clerk's response for possible action.

The purpose of this request is to allow the Board, in public session, to determine whether it will acknowledge the Clerk's response, address the governance and record preservation issues raised, and decide whether any further action is warranted.

This request is made to ensure transparency, preserve the public record, and allow the Board to discharge its governing and fiduciary responsibilities after notice.

Please confirm receipt of this correspondence and advise whether agenda placement will be provided in accordance with the Board's Rules of Procedure and By-Laws.

Respectfully,

Lance Lashaway
Vice Chair
Hillsdale Conservatives
Hillsdale County, Michigan

Legal References

1. Hillsdale County Board of Commissioners Rules of Procedure and By-Laws, Article V, Rule 5.13(4).
2. Michigan Election Law record retention requirement, MCL 168.811.
3. Federal election record preservation requirement, 52 U.S.C. § 20701.
4. Michigan Open Meetings Act policy favoring transparency in public deliberation, MCL 15.262 and MCL 15.263.