

APPLYING "The Do's and Don'ts of Election Disinformation" to Elections in Leelanau County

It is good to be vigilant about the integrity of our electoral process. There are checks and balances and safeguards in place in our election system, some longstanding and some new, to ensure that all people qualified to vote can do so and that those who are not qualified, can't. It is important that we understand those safeguards, pay attention, and hold our public officials accountable to the rules. The LWVLC is committed to advancing that mission. The sidebar shows official sources of information that can help counter rumors and promote understanding and accountability.

Asking questions in order to hold election officials accountable to the rules is good, but spreading rumors and jumping to false conclusions about misconduct or fraud risks impairing the operation of the democratic process, undermining crucial faith and confidence in our system of government, and wasting valuable taxpayer dollars.

THE BOTTOM LINE: ELECTION MISCONDUCT IS UNCOMMON AND THERE ARE EFFECTIVE REMEDIES IN PLACE WHEN IT OCCURS.

Here are some reasons why our system is inherently trustworthy and election misconduct is rare.

- ✔ The person who oversees the election process is locally elected and is accountable to the law and to the voters.
- ✔ Election workers are your neighbors and friends and are not just from one party.
- ✔ Penalties for election fraud are severe.
- ✔ The parties have access to all precincts to allow them to monitor every phase of the election. They are incentivized to do so and to pursue recounts and appeals when there is evidence supporting a challenge to a particular election result.

RESPONDING TO RUMORS

Official Sources

Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency

[Election Security Rumor vs. Reality](#)

The federal Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency is responsible for cybersecurity and infrastructure protection throughout all levels of government, including coordination with state and local election officials.

<https://www.cisa.gov/topics/election-security/rumor-vs-reality>

Michigan Department of State

[Fact Checks](#)

<https://www.michigan.gov/sos/faqs/elections-and-campaign-finance/fact-checks>

[Elections and Voting](#)

<https://www.michigan.gov/sos/faqs/elections-and-campaign-finance/elections-and-voting>

Leelanau County

[Elections/Voter Information](#)

The Leelanau county clerk is the chief election official of the county. The clerk administers all election functions required by law, including the supervision of all national, state, and local elections, and the training of all election workers in the county. In addition, the clerk prepares and assists in the official canvass of each election held in the county.

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<http://leelanau.gov/clerk.asp>

<https://www.leelanau.gov/elections.asp>