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Anthony Forlini: Election Monitors can be good business practice and open the door to greater accountability and transparency

They can serve as an extension of collaboration between local, state, and federal systems

Macomb County, MI - Anthony Forlini, Republican candidate for Michigan Secretary of State, regards the U.S. Department of Justice's decision to assist with election monitors of election administration as good business practice. He welcomes the monitors' review of Macomb County, where he currently serves as Macomb County Clerk, in their oversight.

"Michigan voters deserve confidence that every legal vote is counted and that only eligible U.S. citizens are voting in our elections," said Forlini. "Our goal as election overseers should never be to argue about whether elections are secure. Our goal should be to prove they are. If federal election monitors help strengthen public confidence in our elections, then I welcome them to Macomb County."

Macomb County is the third largest county in Michigan, serving over 850,000 citizens.

The Department of Justice recently notified states that election officials who knowingly permit non U.S. citizens to remain on voter rolls or vote in federal elections could face criminal liability under federal law. At the same time, Michigan Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson has stated that Michigan already has safeguards in place and has criticized the federal action as politically motivated.

"This is nothing more than transparency and accountability," Forlini said. "If our election processes are strong, then independent oversight should simply confirm that fact. We should have nothing to hide. We should be encouraging strong collaboration, working with our county clerks, local and state partners, and federal agencies to bring safe and inclusive elections to all Americans. We shouldn't be political, or adversarial. These systems are too precious and as every good business owner knows, the more eyes on our systems the better."

Since taking office as Macomb County Clerk, Anthony Forlini has implemented numerous improvements. They include but are not limited to: provided greater transparency through online ballot image access, enhanced election worker training, strengthened election integrity measures, tightened chain of custody procedures, and implemented additional security protocols designed to increase voter confidence.

"I have always believed that transparency builds trust," Forlini added. "Whether the observers are from the Department of Justice, accredited bipartisan organizations, or authorized state officials, lawful oversight should be viewed as an opportunity, not a threat."

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