

Dear Commerce Township residents and voters,

I apologize to all the voters who were delayed at the polls by ballot shortages on August 7, 2018. All of us in the clerk's office work tirelessly in the months and weeks leading up to every election to insure an election runs smoothly and every voter can exercise their RIGHT to vote. As we prepare for an election my office is subject to policy dictates and decisions mandated by Oakland County and the State of Michigan which insures a uniform application of rules and procedures in the administration of elections. One of the items set by the county is the maximum number of ballots each local clerk is allowed to order. I ordered the maximum number of ballots allowed by the county. In addition, as ballot supplies ran low my staff delivered all unused absent voter ballots to the precincts in need of more ballots. I followed the county's emergency ballot printing procedures and requested additional ballots that the county failed to deliver in a timely manner and in sufficient quantities. Only the county has the ability to print ballots in bulk. The county clerk insists that local clerks can print ballots in the precincts using the Voter Assist Terminal (VAT), which is true. However, the VAT can only print one ballot at a time and only at the rate of time it takes a voter to actually vote the ballot. Some precincts did this but clearly this was too slow of a pace to accommodate the number of voters in line at the precincts on August 7th. I am joining other local clerks in refuting the erroneous claims of the county clerk and demanding that the imposed ballot ordering limits be increased or removed, giving local clerks discretion in the ordering of ballots. I want to insure this NEVER happens again in future elections. I sincerely and whole heartedly apologize to the voters of Commerce Township. I will continue to advocate for fair and accessible elections and to fight for every citizen's right to vote.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Melissa Creech".

Melissa Creech
Clerk, Charter Township of Commerce