



## MICHIGAN CIVIL RIGHTS INITIATIVE

# NEWS

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### **UNANIMOUS COURT VICTORY PROPELS PETITION DRIVE: AFFIRMS LANGUAGE CLEAR, CONSTITUTIONAL, AND CONSISTENT WITH CIVIL RIGHTS**

On Friday, a Court of Appeals panel unanimously affirmed in a 3-0 decision the legality of the petition language for the Michigan Civil Rights Initiative. The decision followed a ruling by an activist Circuit Court judge in March that defied common-sense and seemed geared only to delay the petition drive. The Court recognized that the MCRI petition works hand-in-hand with pre-existing civil rights and complies with all technical form requirements.

The court ruled that the proposed amendment can be read consistently with Michigan's current anti-discrimination clause and that it didn't "alter or abrogate" the pre-existing language of the Constitution. The Court ruled that "the fact that the proposed amendment uses some of the same terms found in Article 1, Section 2, does not compel the conclusion that the proposal alters, amends, or abrogates the existing wording of that provision." The Court concludes that MCRI's petition is legal.

More importantly, the Court also recognized that MCRI effect "has applications well beyond the scope of affirmative action programs," and that "plaintiffs argument that the equal protection clause would be altered or abrogated by the proposed amendment is meritless." This is a distinction that MCRI has been making since its launch – the proposal language ends the use of "race preferences," but it does not prevent legitimate forms of "affirmative action" such as outreach, socio-economic programs that benefit all disadvantaged, and K-12 educational improvement that increases the size of qualified applicant pools. MCRI believes that the artificial solution that increases "perceived diversity" hinders these real solutions because it gives politicians and universities excuses not to solve the real underlying educational problems.

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