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Contact: Elizabeth Battiste
ebattiste@martinwaymire.com
248-404-7846

Voters Not Politicians Volunteers Create Quilt to Promote Proposal 2 *Quilt reflects Michigan voters, diverse populations*

A group of Mid-Michigan quilters have used their expertise to create a stunning quilt that promotes Proposal 2 put forth by Voters Not Politicians, the 2018 November ballot initiative that will end partisan gerrymandering in Michigan by establishing an independent citizens redistricting commission.

Members of the group were volunteering with Voters Not Politicians to get the word out about the ballot initiative when they had a creative idea: Why not use art as a vehicle to help publicize this important issue? With quilters and artists on the team, the group undertook the massive project in early March and finished it in mid-August.

The result is a full-size quilt of the state of Michigan. Every county is represented by a different green block. Superimposed on the state are sheer overlays of several of the current gerrymandered districts. By itself, this effect is both beautiful and informative. But the group really wanted to create a quilt that depicted both the diversity of our state and the inclusiveness of the Proposal 2 effort. As a result, the Michigan map is surrounded by individual quilted blocks that highlight different constituencies, such as educators, farmers, musicians, city dwellers, nature lovers, and more. The “Make Every Vote Count” block ties all the blocks together – musicians, educators, farmers, etc. – and conveys that everyone should have a voice.

“This was a real team effort and we’re so proud of the result. We hope that the quilt will help publicize how Proposal 2 will give voters a voice in how voting districts are drawn, which is so fundamental to our democracy.” said Mary Brown, organizer of the group. “The Voters Not Politicians campaign has stitched people together from across Michigan, and we are excited to share a representation of the beautiful diversity of our state.”

Volunteers involved in the project included Karin Miller, Laura DeLind, Chris Worland, Johnie Johnson, Irene Armock-Schaaf and Mary Brown. Kim Brock photographed the quilt.

The quilt will be on display at events around Mid-Michigan, including Downhome Days in Mason, Sept. 13-16 and the Flint Quilt Festival, October 11-13. Arrangements for the quilt and volunteers to schedule a stop at community events large and small can be made by contacting Janet Brock at jbrock@mac.com.

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Voters Not Politicians is a nonpartisan, volunteer-driven organization dedicated to passing Proposal 2, a state constitutional amendment to end partisan gerrymandering by taking politicians and lobbyists out of the redistricting process and putting Michigan citizens in charge. Learn more at www.votersnotpoliticians.com.