

ANTHONY G. FORLINI (R)

Anthony “Tony” Forlini has served as Macomb County Clerk since he was elected in 2020. He was re-elected in November 2024 over Democratic challenger David Adams with nearly 58% of the vote. Before becoming clerk, Forlini served three terms in the Michigan House of Representatives, from 2011-2016. After he was term limited out, Forlini ran for Congress in 2016 but finished in last place in the Republican primary. He later worked as operations manager for Macomb County’s Public Works department in 2017 and as district director for then-Congressman Paul Mitchell in 2018. Prior to joining the state House, Forlini served as Harrison Township’s supervisor from 2004 to 2010. Forlini also works as a financial planner and is the owner and president of Design Financial Inc. Forlini graduated from Western Michigan University and is a lifelong Macomb County resident.

Key Findings:

While Forlini has expressed confidence in elections, he has ties to radical conspiracy theorists and election deniers. Forlini attended a QAnon-tied event in 2020. Forlini received national media attention in October 2022 for hiring of Genevieve Peters, a 2020 election denier who attended the Jan. 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol and “Stop the Steal” protests in Detroit and Lansing. Forlini has praised the “hard work” of the Election Integrity Fund and Force, a group of conservative activists who went door to door canvassing to detect “ghost votes” in an attempt to re-litigate the 2020 election. In 2023, Forlini supported conspiracy theorist Kristina Karamo’s bid to lead the Michigan Republican Party and defended the Shelby Township clerk who was removed from his election duties after being criminally indicted as part of the 2020 fake electors scheme. In 2020, Forlini was reportedly seen at an alleged QAnon-associated event. According to Progress Michigan, Forlini “was photographed attending a ‘Save the Children’ event along 16 Mile Road in Macomb County. The ‘Save the Children’ slogan is primarily based on unsubstantiated claims made by followers of the increasingly popular QAnon conspiracy, and attendees at the rally openly promoted QAnon.”

In 2021, Forlini paid \$16,000 for a forensic audit of election equipment to “assuage” residents’ fears about election interference. As SOS, Forlini would audit county clerks. In 2021, Forlini paid Alabama-based specialist Pro V&V \$16,000 to examine Macomb County’s election hardware to get a “complete forensic image” of the server and hard drive. According to *The Detroit News*, “Forlini said he has no reason to doubt the results in Macomb County. The audit will build public confidence in the local election system and assuage some residents’ fears about outsiders’ ability to interfere in the results, he said.” According to the *Macomb Daily*, at a Macomb County Board of Commissioners meeting in October 2021, Forlini was accused of “trying to ‘placate’ county voters who refuse to accept the 2020 election results by paying for an inspection of the election computer server.” Forlini contended that he was not seeking to placate residents but instead wanted to maintain public confidence in the voting system and demonstrate transparency. Forlini said, “We’re going to ensure our server has not been compromised and doing everything to ensure we have fair and clean elections. This is not about turning over the results of the election.” In January 2022, the audit found “no outside interference.” In March 2026, Forlini’s campaign website said as secretary of state, Forlini would “audit county clerks to keep consistency across state”. In March 2026, Detroit Free Press Columnist M.L. Elrick wrote, Forlini “commission[ed] a forensic audit in October 2021 to address concerns about election results, at a time when MAGA supporters were hurling 2020 election fraud allegations like Trump chucking rolls of paper towels in Puerto Rico after a hurricane.”

In 2026, Forlini said his office identified 15 noncitizens on county voter rolls; a later state probe found some were actually U.S. citizens. In January 2026, Forlini claimed he found 15 noncitizens who were registered to vote after comparing the county's voter rolls to its jury pool. Votebeat wrote, "Forlini said his data shows that 'the system is flawed' and needs adjustments. But comparing two separate lists is generally a fraught way to find actual noncitizens on the voter rolls, experts say, and verifying his findings will be difficult." Days later, Secretary of State Benson said her office was probing Forlini's claims but said their review so far found Forlini's investigation was not thorough and "subjected at least one valid U.S. citizen who was eligible to vote to a criminal probe." According to MLive, "Of the 15 people flagged by Macomb County Clerk Anthony Forlini, three are confirmed U.S. citizens, according to Benson's office." Following Forlini's claim, Republican members of Congress sent a letter to Secretary Benson for additional information "and slamming the secretary of state for refusing to comply with the Department of Justice's request for voter registration data," Michigan Advance reported. In an op-ed, State Representative Mai Xiong wrote, "The Macomb County Clerk made serious public allegations that cast doubt on our elections that are safe and secure. In the process, he put the constitutional rights and privacy protections of Macomb County residents at risk." In March 2026, Detroit Free Press Columnist M.L. Elrick wrote, "... Forlini did seem to try a MAGA hat on for size by raising questions about whether people who were not citizens are registered to vote."

Forlini supported the federal SAVE Act and the proposed "Citizen Only Voting" ballot measure in Michigan. In February 2026, Forlini used his claim of noncitizen voters in Macomb County to push support for the SAVE Act. In a video posted to his Facebook page, Forlini said, "The SAVE Act. How important is it? Well, I'll tell you. I think it's very very important and the reason why- just a couple weeks ago, we found non-citizens on the voting rolls. And you know what? Part of that is because we've made it a lot easier for people to register which is a good thing. Or is it? Because now people are getting in on the voting rolls that probably shouldn't be on the voting rolls. That's why Congress needs to pass the SAVE Act." Forlini also supported the proposed "Citizen Only Voting" ballot measure in Michigan. According to Bridge Magazine, the proposal would require citizenship verification for all voters, mandate removal of noncitizens from voter rolls after a 45-day window, and would tighten voter ID rules.

BACKGROUND

Anthony Forlini has served Macomb County Clerk since 2020. “Forlini, 63, has been Macomb County Clerk since 2020, having previously been a state representative and Harrison Township supervisor.” [Detroit Free Press, [9/24/25](#)]

- **2024: Forlini was reelected over Democratic challenger David Adams with nearly 58% of the vote.** “Republican Clerk/Register of Deeds Anthony Forlini, a former Harrison Township supervisor and state representative, won nearly 58% of the vote in a race with Democratic challenger David Adams, according to unofficial results.” [Detroit Free Press, [11/6/24](#)]
- **2020: Forlini was elected Macomb County Clerk.** “It was the third race in which Anthony Forlini ran and won against an incumbent. Forlini, a Republican, defeated incumbent Democrat Macomb County Clerk/Register of Deeds Fred Miller by a margin of 50.8% to 49.2%. About 469,000 total votes were cast in the contest. ‘Fred ran a really good campaign,’ Forlini said Nov. 4. ‘I was able to get the voters out at the polls, and he did a great job getting absentee ballot voters out at the polls.’ Both have name recognition in the region and state due to various political offices held. Forlini said he has a great reputation of being very bipartisan. He even had some Democrats aid him with his campaign. ‘My name I.D. was good and we worked hard and I had a great team behind me, a tremendous team behind me,’ he said.” [C&G Newspapers, 11/4/20]
- **2020: Forlini was elected by fewer than 8,000 votes.** “In the race for Macomb County Clerk/Register of Deeds, Republican challenger Anthony Forlini edged incumbent Democrat Fred Miller by less than 8,000 votes. Forlini garnered 238,433 votes (50.8%), while Miller received 230,603 votes (49.2%).” [C&G Newspapers, 11/4/20]

2022: Forlini was on the short list to be Tudor Dixon’s running mate in the 2022 gubernatorial election. “Hernandez was among a small group of contenders for the lieutenant governor position that included Macomb County Clerk Anthony Forlini, state Rep. Julie Alexander and former National Basketball Association player Willie Burton.” [Detroit News, 8/19/22]

2018: Forlini worked as district director for Rep. Paul Mitchell. “Forlini, of Harrison Township, is a lifelong Macomb County resident and has been a business owner for 35 years. He is a certified financial planner. He served as Harrison Township supervisor from 2004 to 2011. He won multiple terms as state representative of District 24, serving from 2011 to 2016. From January 2017 to October 2018, Forlini was brought in by Macomb County Public Works Commissioner Candice Miller to serve as operations manager in the department. Currently, he serves as district director for Congressman Paul Mitchell.” [C&G Newspapers, 7/17/20]

2017: Forlini was hired as operations manager by Macomb County Public Works Commissioner Candice Miller. “Macomb County Public Works Commissioner Candice Miller has hired former state Rep. Anthony Forlini as her office's operations manager. [...] Forlini, a resident of Harrison Township, represented Michigan's 24th District in the Michigan House of Representatives from 2010 to 2016. During that time, Forlini was a member of the Natural Resource Appropriation Committee, where he helped oversee funding for several water quality initiatives. In a press release, Miller said Forlini has been an advocate for water quality issues throughout his public service career. He served as the Harrison Township supervisor from 2004 to 2010. ‘I’ve known Tony for more than 20 years now. He is a

dedicated public servant, and I am pleased that he has decided to join our office,' Miller said." [C&G Newspapers, 1/30/17]

2016: Term limited in the State House, Forlini ran for US House of Representatives. "Competitive races for the U.S. House of Representatives are shaping up as money pours into campaigns across Michigan. There are 14 seats up for grabs, with two races in which incumbents have decided not to run for re-election, and a newcomer will win the seat. The primary is Aug. 2 and the general election is Nov. 8. In one of the most competitive primary races of the 2016 season - the 10th Congressional District election to replace U.S. Rep. Candice Miller, a Republican from Harrison Township who is leaving office at the end of the year and running for Macomb County Public Works Commissioner - four Republicans are busy raising cash [...] Also vying for the seat are state Sen. Phil Pavlov, R-St. Clair, who has raised \$247,596 and has \$135,482 in available cash; state Rep. Anthony Forlini, R-Harrison Township, who has raised \$28,540 and has \$27,343 in available cash, and Alan Sanborn, a former state senator and representative from Shelby Township who has raised \$48,608 and has \$19,241 available." [Detroit Free Press, 4/18/16]

- **Forlini finished in last place in the Republican primary.** "Mitchell won the district's Republican primary Tuesday with 30,114 votes, or 38 percent of the vote. He defeated state Sen. Phil Pavlov, R-St. Clair, former state Sen. Alan Sanborn, state Rep. Anthony Forlini, R-Harrison Twp., and David VanAssche, a businessman and U.S. Air Force veteran." [MLive, 8/4/16]

2014: Forlini was reelected to a third term in the State House. "Incumbent Anthony Forlini beat Philip Kurczewski in the Nov. 4 General Election to retain his position as State Representative for District 24. With 37 precincts reporting, Forlini received 58.5 percent of the vote to defeat Kurczewski, who received 39 percent. 'We're very pleased,' Forlini said the morning after winning his third term. 'We expanded from the last election and did 4 percent better.'" [C&G Newspapers, 11/5/14]

- **2012: Forlini was reelected to a second term in the State House.** "Harrison Township Republican Anthony Forlini took more than 50 percent of the vote during the Nov. 6 general election, retaining his seat in the state House of Representatives. Forlini received 54 percent of the vote with 22,360, defeating challenger Philip Kurczewski, who received 18,507 votes for 45 percent. The 24th District makes up a large chunk of Harrison Township, which he shares with state Rep. Marilyn Lane, D-Fraser, and spills into surrounding communities like St. Clair Shores, Clinton Township and Macomb Township. After the election results came in, Forlini said he was fortunate to have bipartisan support leading him to a re-election victory. 'I appreciate the courage from those people from other parties to support me,' he said. 'Why do I get that (support)? I had seven public acts to my name in the last two years; laws that I had enacted that had a 98 percent of the legislative vote. All of my bills had complete bipartisan support.'" [C&G Newspapers, 11/14/12]
- **2010: Forlini defeated a Democratic incumbent to win election to the State House.** "Republicans regained control of the Michigan House and increased their advantage in the Senate, giving incoming governor Rick Snyder plenty of allies at the state Capitol when he takes office next year. [...] Rep. Sarah Roberts, D-St. Clair Shores, lost to Republican Anthony Forlini." [Associated Press, 11/3/10]

2008: Forlini was narrowly reelected Harrison Township Supervisor. "Incumbent Anthony Forlini, a Republican, has kept his post as supervisor of the township, but just barely. 'I'm very happy with the

results; it was a very long night,' said Forlini. 'It is time for Harrison Township now to move forward ... and I think it looks very positive.' Forlini, who said he didn't find out the final results until the early morning hours of Nov. 5, won with 6,396 votes, or 50.3 percent, beating challenger Mark Knowles, a Democrat, who received 6,309 votes or 49.7 percent. The difference between the two was only 87 votes. Forlini said that he was not at all surprised that the race was so close. 'I was one of the few people that thought that. All along I had said it's going to be a big Democrat year,' he said." [C&G Newspapers, 11/12/08]

- **2004: Forlini was elected Harrison Township Supervisor.** [Detroit News, 11/4/04]

2001: Forlini worked as a financial planner in Mt. Clemens, Michigan. "Forlini bikes each work day for seven months of the year between his Harrison Township home and Mt. Clemens office. He used his love for biking as the way to raise money. Of this year's pledges, \$2,000 came from the Knights of Columbus council at St. Hubert Catholic Church in Harrison Township. Stefanie made this year's ride on a bike borrowed from another family member. Her new, unlocked bike was taken more than a week ago from the lobby of Forlini's office in Mt. Clemens after her father rode it to work. 'She was devastated,' said her father, a financial planner. 'After the theft, she would call me at the office every three hours to ask if the police found it yet.'" [Detroit News, 6/29/01]

Forlini holds a bachelor's degree from Western Michigan University. "Anthony Forlini. Party: Republican. Age: 50. Hometown: Harrison Township. Profession: Financial planner. Political experience: Harrison Township supervisor, 2004-11; state representative, 2011-present. Education: Bachelor's degree, Western Michigan University." [Detroit Free Press, 11/4/12]

Forlini is a lifelong Macomb County resident. "Forlini was elected Macomb County clerk and register of deeds in 2020 who served as a state representative for six years and prior to that served as the Harrison Township supervisor. Most recently, he was a district director for U.S. Rep. Paul Mitchell and operations manager at Macomb County Public Works. Forlini, of Harrison Township, is a lifelong Macomb County resident, father and grandfather who served as a state representative for six years and prior to that served as the Harrison Township supervisor. He also owns a business and is a certified financial planner." [Detroit Free Press, 7/15/24]

2016: Forlini was knighted in Italy. "State Rep. Anthony Forlini will be conferred as a knight in the Order of the Star of Italy during a ceremony on Dec. 11 in Clinton Township. Rep. Forlini, R-Harrison Township, will be presented the honor by Dr. Maria Luisa Lapresa, the Consul of Italy in Detroit, during ceremonies at the Italian American Cultural Society, 43843 Romeo Plank Road at 6 p.m. 'I am immensely honored to receive this award and thank the Italian government for the work we have done to create a better relationship between our nations,' Rep. Forlini said. 'I look forward to continuing my relationship with Italy, strengthening our friendship and our commercial ties.' Rep. Forlini was recognized as being a strong advocate for the Italian community, including a trip to Torino in 2013 to speak to more than 70 Italian businesses to promote partnerships with Michigan. Rep. Forlini also was commended for introducing Italian language classes in Lake Shore and L'anse Creuse school districts, which has fostered student exchanges. Rep. Forlini was also instrumental in keeping the Consulate of Italy in Detroit in 2014, when there were plans to move the consulate to another state. Rep. Forlini introduced a House resolution to retain the consulate, which received unanimous approval." [Rep. Anthony Forlini Press Release, 12/9/16]

Forlini is a past board member with Macomb County Chamber of Commerce, a past board member of St. John North Shores Hospital Foundation, and a past grand knight of St. Hubert Knights of Columbus. “Forlini is a lifelong resident of Macomb County, graduating from Fraser High School and then Western Michigan University. He is a past board member with Macomb County Chamber of Commerce, a past board member of St. John North Shores Hospital Foundation, and a past grand knight of St. Hubert Knights of Columbus.” [CBS News, [9/24/25](#)]

Anthony and his wife Diane have been married for over four decades. They have three children and four grandchildren. According to his campaign website, “Anthony and his wife Diane have been married for over four decades. They have three children and four grandchildren.” [Anthony Forlini for Secretary of State, accessed [5/12/26](#)]

Design Financial Inc

Forlini is the owner and president of Design Financial Inc, a “comprehensive financial services firm”. Forlini, who is a certified financial planner, is the owner and president of Design Financial Inc. According to the firm’s website, “Design Financial Inc. is a comprehensive financial services firm committed to helping our clients improve their long-term financial success. We offer access to quality financial products and the advice and expertise of some of the best financial professionals in the industry. Design Financial Inc is a Michigan licensed agency of health and life insurance committed to helping our individual and small business clients improve success and peace of mind. We offer a wide range of quality insurance products and the advice of some of the best professionals in the industry.” The firm is headquartered in Mt. Clemens, MI. [DesignFinancial.com, accessed [5/12/26](#)]

- **Forlini “served his clients well for over 35 years” was registered “series 6, 63, 65, and 7” and had CLU and ChFC designations.** Design Financial’s profile of Forlini stated: “Tony has served his clients well for over 35 years, is registered series 6, 63, 65, and 7, and has , CLU, and ChFC designations. His life has been spent in service to his clients, his wife Diane, children and their families as well as to his church and community.” [DesignFinancial.com, accessed [5/12/26](#)]
- **May 2026: Design Financial Inc was active and in good standing with the state of Michigan.** As of May 12, 2026, state business entity records showed that Design Financial Inc was active and in good standing. Its upcoming annual report would be due on May 15, 2026. [State of Michigan, MiBusiness Registry Portal, accessed [5/12/26](#)]

Property Information

Anthony and Diane Forlini live in Harrison Township, MI. As of May 2026, Anthony and Diane Forlini were the owners of a home in Harrison Twp, MI (APN: 17-12-15-155-007). According to Macomb County records, the Forlinis purchased the property in April 2008 for \$122,000. [Macomb County, BS&A Software, accessed [5/11/26](#)]

- **Forlini’s home sat on the lakefront in Belvidere Bay.** A Google Maps search for 41270 Conger Bay Dr. showed that the home was located sat on the Lake St. Clair waterfront in Belvidere Bay. [Google Maps, accessed [5/11/26](#)]

- **Forlini received a Principal Residence Exemption (PRE) for the property.** According to online county records, Forlini has received a Principal Residence Exemption (PRE) for this property since 2018. [Macomb County, BS&A Software, accessed [5/11/26](#)]
- **The property appeared to have a delinquent tax balance for multiple years.** Online county records indicated that as of May 11, 2026, there was an outstanding and “delinquent” tax balance for 41270 Conger Bay Dr. Harrison Twp, MI 48045. According to Macomb County’s online records software, \$3,954.52 was outstanding for Winter 2024, \$916.56 was outstanding for Winter 2016, and \$760.73 was outstanding for Winter 2013. Several additional years of delinquent taxes appeared to be owed for 2002- 2007, before Forlini purchased the property. [Macomb County, BS&A Software, accessed [5/11/26](#)]

NOTE: THE ACCURACY OF THESE ONLINE FINDINGS SHOULD BE VERIFIED IN-PERSON AT THE MACOMB COUNTY CLERK/REGISTER OF DEEDS OFFICE.

In 2018, Anthony and Diane Forlini sold their previous home in Harrison Township, MI.

According to online county records, Anthony and Diane Forlini previously lived at a home in Harrison Township, MI. The Forlinis appeared to have sold the property in 2018. [Macomb County, BS&A Software, accessed [5/11/26](#)]

SOS CAMPAIGN

March 2026: Forlini won the Republican nomination for Secretary of State. “At the Michigan Republican convention Saturday, Macomb County Clerk and Register of Deeds Anthony Forlini won the party's nomination for Michigan Secretary of State. Forlini, of Harrison Township, had been challenged by Oakland County businesswoman Monica Yatooma and Clarkston Community School District board trustee Amanda Love. Forlini, who has previously served in the Michigan House of Representatives and as supervisor of Harrison Township, said he was taken aback at Saturday's vote, which was completed after one round. ‘This was probably the most overwhelming nomination or election by virtue of how it happened,’ he said. ‘I honestly expected it to go to a second or third round of voting before one of the three candidates would get the majority vote. So I was pleasantly surprised...’” [Macomb Daily, [3/28/26](#)]

- **Macomb Daily: Political insiders said Forlini was the “establishment” pick.** “Political insiders said Forlini was considered an ‘establishment’ pick who was chosen ahead of less experienced candidates who were favored by some activists. ‘I have pretty consistently delivered a product to citizens with no drama,’ he said. ‘I think people saw me as delivering common sense solutions with as opposed to always looking backwards in time to a previous election.’” [Macomb Daily, 3/28/26]
- **Forlini received about 55 percent of the vote from over 2,000 delegates at the convention.** “Forlini received about 55% of the over 2,000 delegates gathered in Novi. ‘I am humbled by the support of Michigan's hardworking Republican delegates for this endorsement,’ said Forlini. ‘I congratulate all the candidates in this race for a hard and competitive race. I look forward to working with them in the weeks ahead to build a strong campaign.’ [...] ‘Now we run hard to win in November,’ Forlini continued. ‘I look forward to talking to all voters throughout the state. I will share the good news of what we have accomplished in Macomb County and how we will

improve systems, procedures, and service for all Michiganders when I am elected as the next Secretary of State in November.” [Macomb Daily, 3/28/26]

September 2025: Forlini announced campaign for Secretary of State. “Michigan citizens want to know their vote counts and that the process is run with transparency, credibility, and accountability.” “Macomb County Clerk Anthony Forlini will run for the Republican nomination for Michigan Secretary of State next year, joining a growing field seeking the state’s top election administration role. [...] ‘Michigan citizens want to know their vote counts and that the process is run with transparency, credibility, and accountability,’ he said in a Sept. 24 statement. ‘They want their licenses renewed in a timely manner. They want to know that someone who leads the Bureau of Elections is committed to the rule of law, due process, and someone who knows how to make government work for them. I am their man.’” [Detroit Free Press, [9/24/25](#)]

The Detroit News: Republicans believed Forlini gave the party the best chance to flip the secretary of state's office in November. “Delegates picked Forlini as their secretary of state nominee in the first round of voting. The veteran politician from Harrison Township got about 55% of the support, while 25% went to Oakland County businesswoman and activist Monica Yatooma, and 19% went to Clarkston school board member Amanda Love, according to the preliminary results. Forlini needed a majority of the vote to avoid a runoff, a benchmark he achieved to the surprise of many in the convention hall. Republicans contended Saturday that Forlini, who has won two countywide clerk races in Michigan's third-largest county, gave the party the best chance to flip the secretary of state's office in November. ‘People in Macomb County, I can tell you, which is a purple county, really, are looking for somebody to work hard, just do their job, put politics aside,’ Forlini told reporters of his approach.” [The Detroit News, [3/30/26](#)]

Michigan Democratic Party Chair Curtis Hertel: “Anthony Forlini is just another MAGA extremist who would do Donald Trump's bidding, endanger Michiganders' right to vote, and undo the progress that has been made at the Secretary of State's office...” “Michigan Democratic Party Chair Curtis Hertel in a statement sent to media Saturday termed Forlini an extremist. ‘Anthony Forlini is just another MAGA extremist who would do Donald Trump's bidding, endanger Michiganders' right to vote, and undo the progress that has been made at the Secretary of State's office in reducing wait times and modernizing services. Michigan's elections are free, fair, and secure, and yet Forlini has still been peddling debunked claims that have been easily disproven,’ he said. ‘If elected, Forlini would put our state's elections at risk at a time when Trump has already threatened to take over Detroit's elections. ‘It's more important than ever that Michiganders have a fighter who will stand up for their rights as Secretary of State and that's not Forlini. This November, Michigan voters will reject Anthony Forlini and his brand of partisan extremism.’” [Macomb Daily, [3/28/26](#)]

March 2026: Forlini was endorsed by 7th District Congressional Republican Chair Dan Schifko and former state Rep. Bruce Rendon. “Macomb County Clerk Anthony Forlini has received endorsements in his bid for the GOP nomination for secretary of state from 7th District Congressional Republican Chair Dan Schifko and former state Rep. Bruce Rendon (R-Lake City).” [Michigan Advance, 3/27/26]

February 2026: Forlini had both raised and spent the most money among the GOP candidates for SOS. “On the Republican side, secretary of candidates Anthony Forlini, Monica Yatooma and Amanda Love have all been fundraising, though Forlini, the Macomb County Clerk, has both raised and spent the most in recent months.” [Bridge Michigan, [2/2/26](#)]

Forlini: “Michigan deserves a Secretary of State who protects the integrity of our elections”. On his campaign website, Forlini stated: “Michigan deserves a Secretary of State who protects the integrity of our elections and runs a modern, accountable office that respects taxpayers and treats people well.” [Anthony Forlini for Secretary of State, accessed [3/5/26](#)]

Forlini said he felt a call to duty to run and hoped to “get things straightened out at the state level.” “Forlini, 63, of Harrison Township, announced his campaign Wednesday morning, six months before GOP delegates will meet to endorse a candidate for the position. Forlini said he felt a call to duty to run and hoped to ‘get things straightened out at the state level.’” [The Detroit News, [9/24/25](#)]

Forlini said there were a handful of issues that he would change as SOS. “There’s antiquated things with campaign finance that are silly and cause more work”. “He said there are ‘a handful’ of issues in the SOS office that he would like to change. ‘There’s antiquated things with campaign finance that are silly and cause more work,’ he said as an example.” [Macomb Daily, 6/30/25]

Forlini said notaries public were often overlooked as a responsibility of the office. “It’s a huge, huge hole. Why do I know that? Because I’m also the register of deeds, and I see it.” “Forlini said that while the job of secretary of state has a lot of responsibilities, one thing he thinks no one is paying attention to is the Office of the Great Seal, which manages requirements for notaries public. ‘Who is notarizing the notaries? Think about it. With today’s technology, we don’t have ... any good processes in place to ensure that that notary did indeed sign and notarize the signature,’ he said. ‘It’s a huge, huge hole. Why do I know that? Because I’m also the register of deeds, and I see it.’ He added that ‘the bad guys’ have figured out how to forge signatures in a way that looks legitimate. Concerns about that don’t often draw a lot of attention, Forlini said, because the office is ‘behind the scenes.’” [Bridge Michigan, 3/2/26]

Forlini said he was asked to run by state GOP representatives. “Republican Macomb County Clerk Anthony Forlini is considering a run for Michigan Secretary of State in the 2026 election. Forlini said Monday he has been asked by state GOP representatives to throw his hat in the ring, and would be the first Republican to announce to replace Democratic Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson, who is term-limited and running for governor.” [Macomb Daily, 6/30/25]

The Detroit News: Forlini had “the most experience in elected office of the four current GOP candidates for secretary of state” including Monica Yatooma of Commerce Township, Amanda Love of Clarkston and Timothy Smith of Fruitport. “He has the most experience in elected office of the four current GOP candidates for secretary of state. The other Republican contenders are businesswoman and activist Monica Yatooma of Commerce Township, Amanda Love of Clarkston and Timothy Smith of Fruitport. Republicans have scheduled their endorsement convention for March 28 to select nominees for secretary of state, attorney general and education boards.” [The Detroit News, 9/25/25]

September 2025: Forlini received 14.3% of the vote in a straw poll of attendees at the Mackinac Republican Leadership Conference, third place behind Monica Yatooma and Amanda Love. “Despite not having declared a candidacy yet, Forlini received 14.3% of the vote via write-ins in a straw poll of attendees at the Mackinac Republican Leadership Conference this past weekend, coming in third place behind Yatooma and Love, both of whom attended the conference.” [Macomb County Legal News, [9/29/25](#)]

Macomb Daily: Forlini would bring a diverse background of political experience, having previously served as a state legislator, Harrison Township supervisor, public works operations manager and two years on the federal level as district director for former Congressman Paul Mitchell. “He also is a business owner.” “Forlini also would bring a diverse background of political experience, as he has served six years as a state legislator, eight years as a local official as the Harrison Township supervisor, two additional years in the county as Public Works operations manager and two years on the federal level as the district director for then congressman Paul Mitchell. He also is a business owner.” [Macomb Daily, 6/30/25]

Macomb County Legal News: Forlini’s presence in the primary field “likely a comfort to party delegates who hoped to see an experienced heavy-hitter join the race”. “Forlini had been expected to start a campaign for some time. His presence in the primary field is likely a comfort to party delegates who hoped to see an experienced heavy-hitter join the race – Forlini served in the House prior to his time as clerk – and serves as an answer to the question of whether any familiar Republican names might be on the ballot for secretary of state in 2026.” [Macomb County Legal News, [9/29/25](#)]

Macomb County Legal News: Forlini could face objections from his party’s right flank for reiterating the validity of the 2020 election. “He hasn’t espoused the belief that the 2020 presidential election was stolen or subject to manipulation from Democrats”. “Forlini’s name recognition and elections experience lends heft to his campaign, but he could face objections from his party’s right flank over issues of the 2020 election’s validity – Forlini commissioned a forensic audit of Macomb County’s 2020 results at the behest of members of the public who believed tampering had taken place, but stood by the independent auditors when they found no evidence of fraud or other misconduct. He hasn’t espoused the belief that the 2020 presidential election was stolen or subject to manipulation from Democrats, which could put him at odds with a subset of delegates come convention time next year.” [Macomb County Legal News, [9/29/25](#)]

Forlini was endorsed by former Secretary of State Candice Miller, who served from 1993- 2002. “Former Secretary of State Candice S. Miller 1993-2002 endorses Anthony Forlini’s candidacy with the following statement: ‘I am proud to endorse Anthony Forlini for Michigan Secretary of State. Tony will bring the hallmark qualities of integrity and transparency to our election process. He will also bring his record of administrative professionalism and customer service to the branch offices. Michigan would be well served with Anthony Forlini as Michigan’s next Secretary of State.’” [Anthony Forlini for Secretary of State, Press release, [9/24/25](#)]

Republicans’ nominating convention set for March 28, 2026. “Republicans have scheduled their endorsement convention for March 28 to select nominees for secretary of state, attorney general and education boards.” [The Detroit News, [9/24/25](#)]

Lt. Gov. Garlin Gilchrist

Forlini congratulated Lt. Governor Gilchrist on his nomination. “I look forward to seeing him on the campaign trail.” “Delegates meeting at Huntington Place in Detroit selected Lieutenant Governor Garlin Gilchrist as their nominee for secretary of state. He will face Harrison Township Republican Anthony Forlini, the Macomb County Clerk and Register of Deeds. In a statement Sunday, Forlini congratulated Gilchrist on the nomination. ‘Congratulations to the Michigan Democrat delegates on choosing the candidate they feel is best qualified to run for Michigan Secretary of State representing

their party. And congratulations to Lt. Governor Gilchrist on this nomination; I look forward to seeing him on the campaign trail,' Forlini said in a release." [Macomb Daily, 4/20/26]

Forlini: "While I respect him as a person, I am concerned with what I had read in the Detroit News recently, that Mr. Gilchrist showed up for work in his current role only 6% of the time... That is not what the hardworking people of Michigan expect." "Forlini, in a statement Sunday, congratulated the lieutenant governor and said he looked forward to competing against Gilchrist for the role of state elections chief. 'While I respect him as a person, I am concerned with what I had read in the Detroit News recently, that Mr. Gilchrist showed up for work in his current role only 6% of the time,' Forlini said. 'That is not what the hardworking people of Michigan expect.'" [The Detroit News, 4/21/26]

MI GOP Chair Jim Runestad: "Michiganders will now have the opportunity to put up Gilchrist's failed record, where he was effectively a no-show as lieutenant governor, against the successful record of Anthony Forlini, a family man and public servant with a track record of delivering results for taxpayers". "Less than 24 hours after Savit made those comments, Michigan Republican Party Chair Jim Runestad tried to shove him back into the progressive box, saying: 'Savit's long record of championing so-called progressive causes will only endanger our communities and empower criminals.' Runestad, like Gilchrist's Republican opponent Anthony Forlini, criticized Gilchrist for skipping almost all of the state Senate's session days in 2025. The Detroit News reported that the lieutenant governor missed 94% of the upper chamber's sessions, where the lieutenant governor traditionally serves as presiding officer. 'Michiganders will now have the opportunity to put up Gilchrist's failed record, where he was effectively a no-show as lieutenant governor, against the successful record of Anthony Forlini, a family man and public servant with a track record of delivering results for taxpayers,' Runestad said." [Detroit Free Press, 4/26/26]

Gilchrist said Forlini helped the Trump administration lay the groundwork for attacks on election workers and administrators by spreading lies and misinformation. "Forlini, the Republican Secretary of State candidate, said in a statement after Gilchrist secured the party endorsement said his campaign will stay focused on improving customer service, strengthening confidence in Michigan's elections and public service systems. Gilchrist said Forlini has helped President Donald Trump's administration lay the groundwork and the pretext for attacking election workers and election administrators by spreading lies and misinformation. 'I'm focused on protecting votes, voting and voters in Michigan from Trump's assault on our democracy,' Gilchrist said." [Michigan Chronicle, 4/22/26]

PHILOSOPHY

2023: Forlini was supportive of election conspiracy theorist Kristina Karamo's bid to lead the Michigan Republican Party claiming that she "adds diversity to the Republican Party" and that "someone's conspiracy theories are another person's truths." "Election conspiracist Kristina Karamo, who was overwhelmingly defeated in her bid to become Michigan's secretary of state, was chosen Saturday to lead the state's Republican Party for the next two years. [...] Anthony Forlini, the Macomb County clerk and a former state representative, noted she adds diversity and a new voice. 'I think she adds diversity to the Republican Party, which I think is a good thing. She offers a new level of what the Republican Party really represents. And there are plenty of women who have gotten elected, and the Republican Party has a female presidential candidate. It's really all up to her,' Forlini said.

Asked about her buying into election conspiracies, Forlini added: ‘Someone's conspiracy theories are another person's truths. I'm not saying I buy into them.’” [Macomb Daily, 2/21/23]

2023: Forlini accused Governor Whitmer of scheduling special elections for political reasons.

“Clerk Anthony Forlini says he's concerned that Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's decision to hold special elections in January and April could set local officials up for failure, and he's urging her to reconsider. Forlini, the Republican clerk in Michigan's third largest county, said under Whitmer's current plan, some clerks could have to administer six elections next year. Meanwhile, voters who receive absentee ballots might struggle to properly submit their ballots with a special primary election in two House districts on Jan. 30 and the presidential primary less than a month later on Feb. 27, Forlini argued. ‘If it was a Republican governor who did it, I would be just as upset,’ said Forlini, a former GOP state legislator. He added of the special election dates, ‘The decision to do this had everything to do with politics.’” [Detroit News, 11/30/23]

- **Forlini: “Calling elections less than one month apart with permanent absentee ballots being sent for each, sets up a colossal pathway for potential confusion and chaos for voters and election administrators.”** “Many expected the governor to hold a special election to replace two state representatives elected to city mayoral positions in Macomb and Wayne Counties. But no one expected she would have called for a special election over the Thanksgiving holiday to commence on Jan. 30 less than one month before a major presidential primary and only with a 5-day notice for potential candidates to file paperwork to run for the office. Why would our governor make a decision to create two overlapping elections when one election in February would suffice and save much confusion and thousands of tax dollars? The House of Representatives is currently in a position to have shared responsibilities with 50/50 control split among Democrats and Republicans. The short-term outlook would have been an ideal opportunity for great bi-partisan legislation. Every vote matters; every vote counts. Calling elections less than one month apart with permanent absentee ballots being sent for each, sets up a colossal pathway for potential confusion and chaos for voters and election administrators. [...] All elected officials, myself included, are put in place by citizens hoping we make balanced decisions for the good of society. We may disagree on how we get there, but introducing confusion into the election process is not a virtue our residents value. Especially when a much less costly, more equitable and fair solution is only a few weeks away. On behalf of the hard-working local clerks, our election poll workers, and the voters of our state, we are asking the governor to combine the Jan. 30 election with the already scheduled Feb. 27th election date.” [Anthony Forlini Op-Ed, Macomb Daily, 12/3/23]

2020: Forlini was spotted at an alleged QAnon-associated event. “Recently, former Republican state representative and current county clerk candidate Anthony Forlini [left] was photographed attending a ‘Save the Children’ event along 16 Mile Road in Macomb County. The ‘Save the Children’ slogan is primarily based on unsubstantiated claims made by followers of the increasingly popular QAnon conspiracy, and attendees at the rally openly promoted QAnon. ‘Anthony Forlini’s presence at a rally associated with QAnon this week is deeply concerning,’ said Lonnie Scott, Executive Director of Progress Michigan. ‘Spurred on by President Trump, these conspiracy theorists have become an increasingly dominant force within the Republican Party. Human trafficking is an incredibly important issue, and we cannot allow it to be co-opted by conspiracy theorists who prioritize shock value and political agendas over real facts and solutions. We strongly condemn Forlini’s decision to attend this rally and urge his fellow Republicans to disavow him and the QAnon conspiracy.’” [Progress Michigan, [9/2/20](#)]

2022: Forlini lobbied Clinton Township leaders to reinstate the celebration of Columbus Day instead of Indigenous People's Day. “Lawyers, home builders, grocers, bakers, and elected public officials of American-Italian descent lobbied Clinton Township leaders to reverse a previous action to replace Columbus Day with Indigenous People's Day on their municipal calendar. [...] Macomb County Treasurer Larry Rocca, Clerk Anthony Forlini, and Prosecutor Peter Lucido who all are of Italian-American descent also spoke at the meeting. Forlini called the move a ‘slap in the face’ for Macomb Italians, while Lucido said he would ‘die for’ his Italian pride and heritage. Rocca wondered aloud if trustees took into consideration ‘your citizens, your constituents, your voters’ in erasing Columbus Day.” [Macomb Daily, 11/30/22]

- **2024: Forlini was the Columbus Day “Man of the Year” by the Detroit-area Columbus Day Celebration Committee.** “Macomb County Clerk Anthony Forlini has been named the Columbus Day ‘Man of the Year’ by the Detroit Area Columbus Day Celebration Committee for his leadership and advocacy in the Italian-American community. Forlini and two other award recipients will be honored Sunday during the 2024 Columbus Day Banquet at the Italian American Cultural Center in Clinton Township, according to a news release from Forlini and the Clerk’s Office. Also to be honored will be ‘Woman of the Year’ Mary Smith of the Venetian Club of Mutual Aid, a Madison Heights-based social club and banquet center, and ‘Humanitarian of the Year’ Macomb County Circuit Judge Joseph Toia. Forlini, the son of an Italian immigrant, has made multiple trips to Italy, establishing ties between schools and businesses and introducing American culture to Italy and vice versa, according to the release.” [Macomb Daily, 10/8/24]

2020: Forlini said he ran for Macomb County Clerk because of election integrity and because clerks must be above politics. “He said when he was a state representative, he “saw some things that were not right with clerks across the state” in terms of the “sanctity of the ballot” — which led to successful legislation in which clerks could not display their names inside or outside polling locations. Forlini said he is running because of election integrity, because people ‘have to have confidence in elections’ and clerks must be above politics. ‘I like things done right, and there are people on both sides of the aisle who spoke to me and said, ‘Tony, you’d be great at this,’ he said. ‘Everything I’ve done had something to do with the integrity of public office of some sort. This is the one position that should transcend politics. It’s the one position that should not be political at all. It should be open, fair, accountable and keeping good record keeping. It needs to be running efficiently.’” [C&G Newspapers, 7/17/20]

- **Forlini: “The Clerk’s position should be the least political of any of the elected positions.”** “Aug. 4 was a good day for Anthony Forlini. The former state representative and Harrison Township supervisor won about 45% of the vote in a four-way Republican primary for a chance at becoming Macomb County's next clerk. [...] Forlini said his name recognition draws ‘a high percentage of independents,’ as well as how he is a person ‘who puts politics to the side’ and discusses issues. ‘The clerk's position should be the least political of any of the elected positions,’ he said. ‘One of the things I’ve proven is being a good steward, representing all the people and not all friends. People shouldn’t have to go to politicians to solve problems — the system should work.’” [C&G Newspapers, 8/6/20]
- **2020: Forlini: “The Clerk, the main overseer of elections, should be above political party leanings.”** “Top goals: The Clerk, the main overseer of elections, should be above political party leanings. My administration will continue our history of putting residents above party politics. I

have written laws as a Michigan legislator that protected the sanctity of the ballot and require training for poll workers. The doors of the Macomb County Clerk's office have been closed to the public since March. We will have them safely reopened for the taxpayers like every other municipality.” [C&G Newspapers, 10/7/20]

As a state legislator, Forlini once ended a family vacation early so he could get back to Michigan in time for a vote. “I had a job to do, and there was no way I was gonna break my perfect record”. Anthony Forlini once ended a family vacation early and spent an extra \$500 to get back to Michigan in time so he could vote in the state legislature during a polar vortex. ‘I had a job to do, and there was no way I was gonna break my perfect record,’ he said. While serving in the state legislature from 2011 to 2016, the Macomb County Republican said he never missed a vote. ‘I get home, get in my car, drive to Lansing just to find out that they cancel session because of the weather,’ Forlini said.” [The Flint Journal, 4/26/26]

2026: Forlini attended fundraiser for Macomb County Executive Mark Hackel. “The only surprise to the fact that Macomb County Executive Mark Hackel is running for re-election is that he's not running for something else. Hackel, 63, of Macomb Township, with no announcement or fanfare, recently filed the paperwork with the Elections Division of the county clerk's office to run for a fifth four-year term as the county's one and only executive since a new charter took effect in 2011. [...] He noted at his recent campaign fundraiser, four of the five other ‘countywide electeds,’ as they are called, attended, sans Lucido, three of them Republicans. Those included Republican Public Works Commissioner Miller, Clerk Anthony Forlini and Treasurer Larry Rocca, along with Democratic Sheriff Anthony Wickersham. Forlini is running for Michigan Secretary of State.” [Macomb Daily, 4/6/26]

2026: Forlini attended campaign event for GOP gubernatorial candidate Perry Johnson. “GOP Michigan gubernatorial candidate Perry Johnson rolled into Shelby Township on Tuesday to attend a ‘Pizza & Politics’ gathering of Republicans. The late afternoon get-together at The Palazzo Grande on Van Dyke and 25 Mile Road was held to sign up precinct delegates and allow election-year candidates to glad hand and interact with fellow Republicans. It was part of Johnson's statewide ‘Be Bold 4747’ bus tour. The 4747 refers to his plan to eliminate the income tax, form property taxes and cut government waste. Several GOP candidates appeared at the event including Macomb County Clerk Anthony Forlini, who is the GOP nominee for Secretary of State; Mike Cox, who also is running for governor; and Justin Kirk, who seeking to fill the 10th District congression seat.” [Macomb Daily, 4/15/26]

Donald Trump

Forlini said he actively supported and voted for Trump all three times. In a March 2026 Facebook post, Forlini wrote, “As someone who actively supported and voted for President Donald J. Trump in 2016 (and 2020, and 2024), you can imagine how excited I was to get to visit the White House during his first term in office. And to top the trip off, he took the time for a very special keepsake that I brought home to my granddaughter which she will be able to treasure forever. Please enjoy the attached [video](#) that was produced during my 2020 Macomb County Clerk’s campaign. We considered redoing it but it really sums up a very, very memorable day perfectly!” [Facebook, posted [3/23/26](#)]

February 2026: Forlini praised Trump’s State of the Union speech. “President Trump did great and laid out a lot of accomplishments and a great vision for the USA going forward.” In a February 2026 Facebook post, Forlini wrote, “It was great to visit with the Calhoun County GOP last night at their monthly meeting, and then watch the President’s State of the Union with them. Well done Mr. President!

President Trump did great and laid out a lot of accomplishments and a great vision for the USA going forward.” [Facebook, Posted [2/25/26](#)]

January 2026: Forlini joined President Trump at an event hosted by the Detroit Economic Club. “President Trump reviewed accomplishments through the first year of his current term and previewed plans to strengthen America even more going forward, and I share his optimism!” In a January 2026 Facebook post, Forlini wrote, “It was great to join President Donald J. Trump today in Detroit for an update hosted by the Detroit Economic Club. President Trump reviewed accomplishments through the first year of his current term and previewed plans to strengthen America even more going forward, and I share his optimism!” [Facebook, Posted [1/13/26](#)]

2023: Forlini called Donald Trump’s indictment in New York a case of “selective justice.” “History that was made in New York City Tuesday as Donald Trump became the first current or former president to ever be indicted reverberated with his Republican backers in Macomb County. [...] Macomb County Clerk/Register of Deeds Anthony Forlini, a Harrison Township Republican, said the case against Trump appears to be ‘selective justice.’ He contrasted it with 2016 Trump opponent Hilary Clinton, who during her tenure as U.S. Secretary of State drew criticism for using a private server for official public communications instead of email accounts maintained on a federal server. ‘I would hope they hold everyone accountable, but this appears to be selective justice, which I believe this is. When you have a former secretary of state who deletes 30,000 emails who has a private email server and she is allowed to merely pay a fine, that, to me, is selective justice,’ he said. He blames the rise of social media nudging journalism aside when it comes to large sections of the public accept politically slanted versions of a story. Donald Trump pleads not guilty to 34 felony counts in historic indictment ‘I’ve seen some things hushed up,’ he said. ‘You had Trump’s home in Florida raided for supposed classified documents. But when (President Joe) Biden does the same thing, you get dead silence. If it’s wrong, it should be wrong regardless of what party you belong to.’” [Macomb Daily, 4/4/23]

In 2020 video, Forlini recounted story of Trump signing a “Future President” infant onesie for Forlini’s granddaughter, who had just been born that day. Forlini later framed it. In a YouTube video, Forlini recalled preparing for a trip to the White House around the same time that his daughter was due to give birth to his grandchild. Forlini said he picked up an infant onesie from a gift shop and got President Trump to sign it. Forlini stated, “During the signing of the hat, I said ‘Mr. President, if you could do me a huge favor, my first granddaughter was born just this afternoon and here I am at the White House.’ Well, he signed it. He signed it, he laughed, he chuckled, thought it was a great story.” Forlini then holds up a frame with the onesie and a photo of Trump signing it. Forlini said, “I had this framed and this is a picture of the president signing the onesie, the onesie itself, and little Isabella [sp] with the onesie laying on top of her. As a matter of fact, I wouldn’t even let her put that on. I was afraid she’d throw up on it and I didn’t want that to happen... One day when she’s grown up, I’m going to give this to her as a little memento of her first day and the president signing this on her birthdate.” [YouTube, posted [6/23/20](#)]

Former state Sen. Pat Colbeck claimed that Forlini was “in direct opposition to President Trump” and complained that Forlini did not share 2020 election doubts. “While Forlini is an election official, Yatooma has won the backing of some of the most vocal critics of the way the 2020 presidential election was administered in Michigan, including Barry County Sheriff Dar Leaf and former state Sen. Pat Colbeck of Canton Township. [...] In a February social media post, Colbeck claimed that Forlini was ‘in direct opposition to President Trump.’ ‘President Trump knows the 2020 election was stolen,’ Colbeck wrote. ‘Tony Forlini does not believe the 2020 election was stolen.’” [The Detroit News, 3/26/26]

Columnist M.L. Elrick: "... Forlini did seem to try a MAGA hat on for size by raising questions about whether people who were not citizens are registered to vote." Columnist M.L. Elrick wrote, "After deciding to run for Secretary of State, Forlini did seem to try a MAGA hat on for size by raising questions about whether people who were not citizens are registered to vote. But Forlini also has a track record of asking authorities to investigate potential wrongdoing - regardless of party affiliation - and resisting the temptation to lend credence to crackpot conspiracy theories." [Detroit Free Press, [3/30/26](#)]

CONTROVERSIES

2008: The Harrison Township Board of Trustees demanded a refund of funding for the St. Hubert Fall Festival after Forlini put up campaign advertising at the event. "Political signs that hung from a tent at the annual St. Hubert Fall Festival the weekend of Sept. 5 to Sept. 7 created controversy among members of the Harrison Township Board of Trustees and caused the group to ask that the church pay back money the township originally refunded the entity. The signs represented Township Supervisor Anthony Forlini; Candice Miller, state representative of 10th District; and Bryan Brandenburg, who is running for state representative in the 24th District, to name a few. Forlini said that the church allows anyone who pays for advertising to put a sign up, as a way for the church to garner revenue for the festival. 'Every year of this festival ... they ask for advertisements from their parishioners,' said Forlini. Members of the board stated, however, that the signs are a problem for two reasons. One, when representatives from St. Hubert came to the Harrison Township Zoning Board of Appeals meeting to request permission to put up tents for the festival, a member of the ZBA, James Senstock, made a motion that St. Hubert be refunded \$600 - because the church is considered a charity - the amount the entity had to pay to be seen before the ZBA. The board approved Senstock's motion. However, at the Sept. 8 Harrison Township Board of Trustees meeting, members said that because Forlini had advertised at the festival, St. Hubert shouldn't receive the \$600 reimbursement. Finance Director Glenn Spencer said that there was a rule stating that 'charity cannot engage in political activity,' when the township has given money to it." [C&G Newspapers, 9/17/08]

2008: Forlini filed a report with the Macomb County Sheriff's Department after two members of the Board of Trustees walked out of a meeting. "The Harrison Township Board of Trustees is in turmoil, with members filing complaints against one another after two trustees walked out of Monday night's board meeting. Township Supervisor Anthony Forlini said he filed a report Monday night with the Macomb County Sheriff's Department on the walkout of Trustees James Ulinski and Sharon Eineman. He said their actions forced him to cancel the meeting because it lacked a quorum with only three remaining members present. The board has a total of seven members; two others were absent. 'It's their duty to serve the public,' Forlini said. 'We have township business we have to run. 'The Macomb County Prosecutor's Office will determine whether to charge the duo with violating the township charter by leaving a meeting already in session, Township Attorney Rob Huth said. However, Ulinski and Eineman followed the measure up by filing an open meetings act complaint against Forlini, and the two other full-time elected officials at the meeting, on Tuesday with the Macomb County Prosecutor's Office. Ulinski and Eineman allege that Forlini, Clerk Jan Jorgensen and Treasurer Darrin York are interfering with an ongoing investigation by a township committee into allegations that the building supervisor - now suspended with pay - abused his position.'" [Detroit News, 8/13/08]

2005: Forlini tried to reduce public comment at township meetings. "Anthony Forlini wants to speed up the public comment section of increasingly rowdy township meetings, where name-calling and grandstanding have become the norm. So Forlini, Harrison Township's supervisor, set up two 'on-deck'

chairs near the podium for potential speakers to sit while someone else is at the microphone. By having the speakers at the ready in their "on-deck" chairs, officials are hoping to shave minutes from the meeting. 'It's the on-deck circle, if you will,' Forlini, who serves as chairman of the board meetings, told The Macomb Daily of Mount Clemens. He said some residents play games with each other by trying to wait to be the last speaker of the evening to have the last word. Under the new format, if no one is sitting in the on-deck chairs, the public comment section will be considered closed." [Associated Press, 9/15/05]

2022: Supporters of the far-right Macomb County Republican Party Chair questioned whether Forlini was really a Republican. "Mark Forton retired from his job as an autoworker in the year 2000 at age 53, believing the future of the country was on the line. He wanted to put everything he had into conservative Patrick Buchanan's Reform Party bid for the presidency. Twenty-two years later, Forton is chairman of the Macomb County Republican Party and said he believes the stakes are even higher. He finds himself at the center of a fight for control of the GOP in a bellwether area of one of the nation's key swing states. Forton, an outspoken backer of former President Donald Trump, is facing a backlash because of his focus on publicly denouncing other Republicans whom he doesn't believe are doing enough to support Trump or push for an audit of the November 2020 election. [...] Forton's supporters have criticized the county's top election official who's a Republican, Macomb County Clerk Anthony Forlini - even demonstrating outside one of his fundraisers. Forton has also endorsed Mellissa Carone and Jacky Eubanks, two state House candidates who are expected to run in competitive primary races this summer and have advanced a bevy of unproven fraud claims about the November 2020 election. The Macomb County GOP's leadership backed censure measures against U.S. Reps. Fred Upton of St. Joseph and Peter Meijer of Grand Rapids Township, two Republicans who voted to impeach Trump after the Jan. 6, 2021 riot. Mankiewicz said she would 'debate' whether Forlini, a GOP official elected countywide, is a Republican." [Detroit News, 3/22/22]

Lawsuits

2023: Forlini was named in a lawsuit from Warren Mayor Jim Fouts over allegations that Fouts' civil rights were violated when he was prevented from running for reelection. "Macomb County Clerk Anthony Forlini filed a motion Wednesday to dismiss Warren Mayor Jim Fouts' lawsuit against him and others in the Detroit U.S. District Court as the mayor argues his civil rights were violated when he was prevented from seeking reelection. Fouts sued the Warren clerk, city Election Commission, City Council and Forlini and claimed his civil rights were violated when he was barred from seeking a fifth term by the state Court of Appeals, which unanimously ruled that a voter-approved 2020 amendment to the Warren city charter limited Fouts to three terms in office. Forlini argued that there is 'no good reason' to disrupt Tuesday's primary election and there is not enough time to conduct a second primary before the November general election in accordance with Michigan election law. [...] Forlini's attorneys argued that he has qualified immunity from any claims for monetary damages because he didn't violate Fouts' rights. 'Forlini is a necessary party in a case like this. He has to be named because he's the county clerk and he runs the elections,' Schapka said. 'That doesn't mean that Tony Forlini did anything wrong. He's just there because you have to name the county clerk.' Forlini had Warren's ballots printed in conformance with the Michigan Court of Appeal's opinion and the law does not require him to ignore the Court of Appeals ruling, Schapka said. Forlini is the second of five defendants to file motions to dismiss the lawsuit. The Warren City Council filed a similar request on Monday and warned Fouts against interfering in Tuesday's election. Forlini adopted the city council's arguments for dismissal of the case, including the argument that Fouts does not have a constitutionally protected right to run for mayor. 'We all have constitutionally protected rights to vote,' Schapka said. 'There is no constitutionally

protected right to run for office is that you have to comply with all of your state laws to run for office.” [Detroit News, 8/9/23]

- **The case was dismissed by the judge.** “A federal lawsuit alleging violation of Constitutional rights filed last month by Warren Mayor James Fouts against the city council and clerk, Macomb County Clerk and Warren Election Commission was dismissed Tuesday by U.S. District Court Judge George Steeh.” [Macomb Daily, 9/5/23]

2023: Forlini was sued by local family lawyer Kyle Bristow over 2022 law temporarily sealing new divorce complaints to protect domestic violence and abuse victims. “A Michigan federal judge declined to block a new state statute designed to protect domestic violence and abuse victims by granting greater privacy protections to divorce filers, finding Wednesday that the risks for victims outweighed the business concerns of a local family law attorney. Lawyer Kyle Bristow of St. Clair, Michigan, filed suit last month, arguing that the 2022 law - which temporarily seals new divorce complaints until proof of service has been recorded - violated his right of access to court records under the First and 14th amendments. [...] Bristow initially filed suit against Macomb County Clerk Anthony Forlini, but the state attorney general's office intervened as a defendant in the case. [...] Forlini is represented by Frank Krycia of Macomb County government.” [Law360, 4/27/23]

2021: Forlini was named in lawsuit filed by Democratic activist Joe Disano who sought to get Sterling Heights City Councilwoman Maria Schmidt thrown off of the ballot. “A \$3 writing error on a campaign statement may get Sterling Heights City Councilwoman Maria Schmidt thrown off the election ballot. Democratic political activist Joe Disano earlier this month sued the Sterling Heights Election Commission and city Clerk Melanie Ryska to get Schmidt removed from the August primary ballot on the accusation she falsely swore that she had filed an accurate campaign statement when it had not been filed. Her alleged false statement on her Affidavit of Identity violates state law and should revoke her candidate, Disano alleges. Schmidt, who is running for re-election, on her proxy mistakenly wrote by hand ‘\$1,835.99’ as the ending balance of her campaign account for 2020 when it should have been \$1,838.99, according to the lawsuit. [...] Forlini is also named in the lawsuit because Sterling Heights provides the ballot to his office to be sent to a printer. Forlini only requested that the issue be finalized by June 4 to provide enough time to get the ballots printed for the Aug. 3 primary.” [Macomb Daily, 5/21/21]

2008: A Harrison Township resident filed a defamation suit against Forlini after being accused of assaulting a municipal ordinance officer. “A resident of Harrison Township accused of assaulting one of the municipality's ordinance officers has been acquitted of the charge. Raymond Elder was found not guilty on Oct. 24 in Macomb County Circuit Court by a jury on the charge of assaulting a public officer. The jury could have found him guilty of either assaulting a public officer, causing injury; or assaulting an officer, not causing injury; but found that he was not guilty of both. [...] Elder wouldn't comment much on the assault case, but did say that in August of this year, he filed a defamation lawsuit against Anthony Forlini, the township's supervisor, stating that Forlini has made careless statements about the case before a verdict had been garnered. ‘Mr. Forlini foolishly and recklessly went to the media without asking a single eyewitness at the scene what happened,’ he said. Although Forlini was reached, he said that he could not comment about the pending litigation.” [C&G Newspapers, 11/5/08; Elder, Raymond et al Vs. Forline, Anthony G et al, Filed [8/6/08](#)]

2008: Forlini was among those sued by a Harrison Township resident over the dramatic increase in his home's taxable value. “A resident of Harrison Township has filed a lawsuit against six members

of the Board of Trustees because the taxable value on his home has dramatically increased. Richard Rapp filed the suit in Macomb County Circuit Court on Feb. 25. Named in the case are trustees James Ulinski, Mike Rice, Sharon Eineman and Robert Garvin. Also named are Township Supervisor Anthony Forlini and Treasurer Darrin York. Township Clerk Jan Jorgensen is the only board member not listed. According to Rapp, he purchased a brand-new home in 2006, when it had a taxable value of \$332,940. The following year, in 2007, the taxable value went up to \$545,000. ‘I have talked to the assessor who has no explanation as to why my taxes went up that way,’ he said.” [C&G Newspapers, 3/6/08]

2009: Forlini sued Impact Professional Real Estate LLC and four other defendants. On February 24, 2009, Forlini and possibly his father, “Anthony Forlini” filed a lawsuit against Impact Professional Real Estate LLC and four others. Details of the nature of the case were not available online. As of May 2026, the case was closed. [Forlini, Anthony et al vs. Impact Professional Real Estate LLC et al, Case No: 2009-000841-CZ, Filed, [2/24/09](#)]

NOTE: Forlini’s father and son share his name. As a result, only cases that clearly related to Macomb County Clerk Anthony Forlini and not his relatives are included in this report.

ELECTIONS & VOTING

2024: Forlini said Macomb County had “one of the highest levels of transparency” in the state for elections. “Local communities have accepted over 100 people of more than 200 people trained to work the polls by county Clerk Anthony Forlini, whose office is coordinating the election. Forlini said one of his primary concerns is local clerks making sure they provide at least one person from each of the two main politics parties at each polling location. ‘When there’s two people of different parties, they hold each other accountable,’ Forlini said. ‘You can still have a good relationship and get along watch each other but you will hold each other accountable.’ Forlini said he has been at the forefront of election security through technology ‘Macomb County has one of the highest levels of transparency,’ he said.

2025: The Macomb County Clerk’s office received two “2025 Public Sector Excellence Awards” from Tyler Technologies, a software company that services the public sector. “The Macomb County Clerk’s Office recently received two national awards for operations in the jury room as well as in Register of Deeds and Vital Records. Clerk Anthony Forlini accepted the awards last week in San Antonio, where Tyler Technologies handed out 28 of its 2025 Public Sector Excellence Awards for leadership, innovation, and excellence in developing, deploying, or maintaining technology provided by Tyler, a software maker that services the public sector. Macomb County was the only entity to receive two awards. The Mount Clemens-based office received the award for ‘Civic Interaction and Public Trust’ for its improvements and innovations in the jury room for the Macomb Circuit Court at 40 N. Main St., and an award for ‘Operational Efficiency’ for Register of Deeds and Vital Records departments at 120 N. Main, where wait times have been reduced to less than five minutes.” [Macomb Daily, 5/22/25]

2023: Democratic Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson praised Forlini’s work as County Clerk. “Michigan Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson was in northern Macomb County Tuesday to talk about upcoming changes in election procedure and increased accessibility to services for residents. [...] Benson also praised Macomb County Clerk Anthony Forlini for building partnerships and bringing people together in preparation for what, she said, promises to be a very contentious election cycle. [...] ‘I’m confident working with Mr. Forlini and the great clerks across this county that we are will be ready in February and in every election we have next year to ensure voters are able to exercise their right

under our state constitution to vote early, to vote from home and return their ballot at a local drop box or through the mail, or at their local clerk's office,' said Benson. 'And you can still vote in person on election day at your polling location if you choose to do that.'" [Macomb Daily, 10/10/23]

2023: Forlini said he would protect the rights of write-in candidates. "While write-in candidates are not unusual, it is a bit uncommon to have multiple write-in candidates running in one city election. In Warren, five people have officially filed to write as write-in candidates in four different city races. [...] Macomb County Clerk Anthony Forlini said the ability to run as a write-in candidate is important to democracy. 'That is the beauty of our system; anyone can run,' Forlini said. 'I want to preserve the right to run as a write-in for anyone who wants to do it.' Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan ran as a write-in candidate in 2013 and won that election with 55% of the vote. Forlini said Duggan's story is inspiring, but that running a successful write-in campaign takes a lot of work. 'The odds are not with the write in candidates,' said Forlini. 'In order to overcome the odds, you need a very coordinated plan and a large campaign team.' Forlini said he does not believe the large number of write-in candidates in Warren signals a trend or that it is tied to an uptick in election result challenges." [Macomb Daily, 10/4/23]

2024: Forlini acknowledged slow reporting of election results in the August primary and said "we need to do a better job in the fall." Detroit and Wayne and Macomb counties lagged behind the rest of the state in reporting the results of Tuesday's primary, raising concerns that a similar performance in the Nov. 5 general election could fuel conspiracy theories about election integrity. [...] Macomb County Clerk Anthony Forlini said results aren't transmitted electronically because tabulator modems that aren't certified can't be used. He said his office gets computer sticks with the information from the individual communities. He said 'it makes it look like our results are getting in later than they should. ... It makes it look like others are more organized, which, that's not the case,' Forlini said, adding that the information just can't be transmitted as quickly. Forlini said he worked with Sheriff Anthony Wickersham during this election and the prior one to pick up the sticks with data from communities that were willing to partner with them. A sheriff's deputy and a clerk's employee in a squad car picked up the sticks in a secure process. Forlini said four squad cars were out Tuesday in eight to 10 communities that participated. Forlini said his office had its first results coming in about 9:30 p.m. Tuesday 'and actually they did a decent job with those that participated. ... We did get results posted up fairly early compared to the past' through the partnership. Though Oakland County may have posted more of its results online sooner, Forlini said Macomb County 'was at 100% before Oakland County was.' Forlini said Clinton Township had a problem with absentee voter ballots which had to be resolved. He said there's a 'lot of checks and balances in the whole system, so everyone's cross-checking, making sure everything's right.' 'We're better this time than we were last time,' Forlini said, adding that 'we need to do a better job in the fall.'" [Detroit Free Press, 8/8/24]

2025: Forlini said his office had trained over 700 election workers. "He touted his experience as Macomb County Clerk, saying his office has trained over 700 election workers. Forlini's campaign also pointed to election security measures taken by Macomb County under his tenure, including watermarking ballots ahead of the 2024 election. Last year, the Macomb Daily reported Forlini said there hadn't been any known instances of a phony ballot being produced but watermarking official ballots provided another layer of protection. Kent County took similar measures last year, as well." [Detroit Free Press, [9/24/25](#)]

Election Denial

Macomb County Legal News: Forlini hasn't “espoused the belief that the 2020 presidential election was stolen or subject to manipulation from Democrats”. “Forlini's name recognition and elections experience lends heft to his campaign, but he could face objections from his party's right flank over issues of the 2020 election's validity – Forlini commissioned a forensic audit of Macomb County's 2020 results at the behest of members of the public who believed tampering had taken place, but stood by the independent auditors when they found no evidence of fraud or other misconduct. He hasn't espoused the belief that the 2020 presidential election was stolen or subject to manipulation from Democrats, which could put him at odds with a subset of delegates come convention time next year.” [Macomb County Legal News, [9/29/25](#)]

Columnist M.L. Elrick: Forlini “appealed to the party's still numerous suspicious minds by making ‘election integrity’ one of his themes... Forlini's literature referenced one of his boldest moves as Macomb County Clerk - commissioning a forensic audit in October 2021 to address concerns about election results...” Columnist M.L. Elrick wrote, “Forlini, a soft-spoken former state representative, appealed to the party's still numerous suspicious minds by making ‘election integrity’ one of his themes. But he also emphasized his record of winning elections. Forlini's literature referenced one of his boldest moves as Macomb County Clerk - commissioning a forensic audit in October 2021 to address concerns about election results, at a time when MAGA supporters were hurling 2020 election fraud allegations like Trump chucking rolls of paper towels in Puerto Rico after a hurricane. Calling for an audit at a time when Trump supporters accusing the late Hugo Chavez of tampering with vote tabulators didn't require bravery. Declaring after the audit was completed that there had been ‘no outside interference’ in Macomb County's elections, did take some courage. And Forlini ended up telling the Detroit News he had no reason to doubt the election's results.” [Detroit Free Press, [3/30/26](#)]

2023: Forlini defended the Shelby Township clerk who was removed from office after being criminally charged for participating in the 2020 false electors scheme. “The Shelby Township clerk who has been criminally charged as part of an alleged “false electors” scheme to overturn the 2020 election in favor of Donald Trump has been ordered to step aside from his official election duties. Michigan Elections Director Jonathan Brater Thursday sent a letter informing Stanley Grot, a longtime Republican politician, that he is being relieved of duties related to elections administration while the criminal case against him plays out. [...] On Wednesday, before Brater's letter, Macomb County Clerk Anthony Forlini defended Grot's work record, saying, ‘He's done a good job and there's been no controversy in what he's done in his job as the clerk.’ Forlini, a Republican, said he doesn't think the case ‘has anything to do with him being a clerk.’” [Bridge Michigan, 7/20/23]

2023: Forlini was supportive of election conspiracy theorist Kristina Karamo's bid to lead the Michigan Republican Party claiming that she “adds diversity to the Republican Party” and that “someone's conspiracy theories are another person's truths.” “Election conspiracist Kristina Karamo, who was overwhelmingly defeated in her bid to become Michigan's secretary of state, was chosen Saturday to lead the state's Republican Party for the next two years. [...] Anthony Forlini, the Macomb County clerk and a former state representative, noted she adds diversity and a new voice. ‘I think she adds diversity to the Republican Party, which I think is a good thing. She offers a new level of what the Republican Party really represents. And there are plenty of women who have gotten elected, and the Republican Party has a female presidential candidate. It's really all up to her,’ Forlini said. Asked about her buying into election conspiracies, Forlini added: ‘Someone's conspiracy theories are another person's truths. I'm not saying I buy into them.’” [Macomb Daily, 2/21/23]

2022: Forlini hired an election conspiracy theorist who attended January 6 protests at the Capitol to work in the Clerk's office. “A woman who denied the results of the 2020 presidential election and attended the Capitol insurrection is now working for the Macomb County Clerk's Office. Genevieve Peters has been outspoken about her views, Videos of her on her way to the Capitol show her shouting that the election was fraudulent. Clerk Anthony Forlini says that doesn't impact her job. ‘I can tell you that she doesn't believe that here. She really believes what we do here is a tremendous system. We got great backups, great people, great clerks in Macomb County that do a fantastic job,’ he said. ‘And so her opinions a year and a half ago don't reflect what is happening here at the office today.’ He said her job includes working with departments to train them. Currently, she is helping recruit poll workers. ‘She's a trainer, so she trains the different departments for various things within here, and so we're doing, right now the election department's taking their turn with her, and they're just trying to approve the systems and whatnot so that people understand what they're doing a little bit better, and do their job better,’ he said. ‘Right now, she's in elections trying to help recruit poll workers for me. So, I'm doing the recruiting, she's doing the organizing behind the scenes. And together we've gotten together over a couple hundred new people to work in the polls, both Democrats and Republicans.’ He said he is not training the poll workers, and he doesn't think her opinions will influence her actions or interactions. ‘We've got people with varying opinions throughout the clerk's office, and varying backgrounds, and varying personal lives, but none of that influences them in their jobs,’ Forlini said. He said he is aware of her statements and her trip to the Capitol for the insurrection, but to his knowledge, she has done nothing illegal and is a good employee..” [WJBK, 10/13/22]

- **Forlini called Peters an “excellent employee” when protestors demanded she be removed from an election-related job.** “Some Macomb County residents want a woman who attended the Capitol insurrection and denied the results of the 2020 presidential election to be removed from her role at the clerk's office. Genevieve Peters works with departments to train them, Clerk Anthony Forlini said. She has also helped recruit poll workers. ‘She is in a sensitive position she should not be in. This completely undermines the integrity of our elections,’ said civil rights attorney Huwaida Arraf. Macomb County Commissioner Antoinette Wallace said she has taken several calls from concerned citizens. ‘People are nervous that their ballots won't be truly counted. That was yesterday I received that phone call, ‘I turned in my absentee ballot, but I really don't think it's going to be counted, I don't think my vote matters,’ and that's a concern,’ Wallace said. Forlini is defending Peters. ‘They don't know Genevieve Peters. Genevieve has been an excellent employee,’ he said. ‘She doesn't work for elections, she works for the register of deeds, she works with all the different departments that we have. Keep in mind we only have four employees in the elections department, but I think some of those concerns are unfounded.’ He said Peters' views from 1 ½ ago don't impact her job. ‘There is no concern. First off, she is not in elections. Even if she was, who better to have than someone who is concerned about elections and concerned if the elections are done properly? I can tell you Genevieve has been an excellent employee and is all about election integrity and that's what I'm all about,’ Forlini said. Protestors don't think Forlini's support is enough to quell worries.” [WJBK, 10/20/22]
- **Forlini defended hiring election deniers because it helps them “believe in the systems we’ve put in place.”** “In Macomb County, just north of Detroit, Clerk Anthony Forlini has faced backlash for his decision to hire activist Genevieve Peters to help recruit poll workers. Peters was outside the U.S. Capitol during the Jan. 6 insurrection and is seen on video encouraging the crowd to ‘storm the gates.’ Forlini said getting election deniers involved in the process helps them ‘believe in the systems we’ve put in place.’” [Associated Press, 11/2/22]

2022: Forlini spread rumors of a national left wing organization seeking to disrupt elections with busloads of protestors. “Macomb County officials said Wednesday steps are being taken to make sure the Nov. 8 election proceeds safely with no threatening behavior to election workers or voters. Republican County Prosecutor Peter Lucido announced his office ‘will not hesitate’ to criminally charge, or refer to the Michigan Attorney General for charges, anyone who menaces voters at a ballot dropbox or displays threatening tendencies to an election worker. [...] Anthony Forlini, the Macomb County Clerk, said he is aware of reports of a national left wing organization looking to cause election trouble with busloads of protestors aiming to cause disruptions. Meanwhile, an Oct. 20 report published by The Washington Post stated in Arizona, Trump and his allies nationally and in that state have urged supporters to monitor outdoor drop boxes. Forlini said his staff has met with the Sheriff’s Office to review protocols for what is and isn’t allowed at voter dropboxes and precincts. He also said the issue of rights of police officers have been part of the discussions. ‘Everyone one of us has a job to do and want fair elections conducted in the proper way. We want to focus on things being done the right way with no intimidation or suppression by either side,’ Forlini said.” [Macomb Daily, 10/27/22]

2022: Forlini criticized a Republican gubernatorial candidate who encouraged poll workers to unplug election equipment if they felt something suspicious was happening. “At a Jan. 26 event in Macomb County, Republican gubernatorial candidate Ryan Kelley encouraged poll workers to unplug election equipment if they suspect something suspicious is occurring. Kelley gave the same advice to a group in Livingston County three days later, urging the crowd to unplug voting machines “if you see something you don’t like happening.” Interfering with a voting device is illegal. It’s also not likely to have any impact on election results. Voting tabulators have backup batteries that can provide power for hours in case of electrical outages. Paper ballots are later tabulated by local canvassing boards anyway, so shutting down machines used to automate the process on election day wouldn’t affect results. ‘It’s just unfortunate that people who are aspiring to be public servants are encouraging that kind of stuff,’ said Macomb County Clerk Anthony Forlini. ‘We all want to uphold the law, we all want to be stewards of society as a whole and do the right thing. Maybe these people are thinking that is the right thing, but it’s not.’” [MLive, 2/4/22]

2022: Forlini expressed confidence in Macomb County’s election results, said he did not expect any changes in a recount demanded by election conspiracy theorists. “From Detroit to the Upper Peninsula city of Marquette, election workers this week and next week are re-tallying the votes cast on two proposals that were on the November ballot: Prop 2, a set of voting reforms, and Prop 3, which ensures a constitutional right to an abortion. The recounts are being conducted in more than 500 precincts at the request of a petitioner for the Election Integrity Fund and Force, a nonprofit and nonpartisan group based in Oakland County that recruits poll challengers and says it seeks ‘transparent and trusted’ elections. The group invoked a little-used provision in state law to trigger the recount, even though the two ballot proposals were approved by a margin that makes changing the outcome a near-impossibility, and is paying the costs with money from prominent boosters of election conspiracy theories. Election skeptics are making similar requests in other hotly contested states, slowing the process of finalizing election results and prompting calls from advocates to change laws they say are being abused in ways lawmakers didn’t anticipate. [...] While the recount will come at a financial price to many counties, election officials like Golembiewski and Macomb County Clerk Anthony Forlini said there is no way around it. ‘It’s going to cost. I don’t know what that number is, but it’s our job to get the job done,’ said Forlini. ‘If they want a recount, that’s their right.’ Macomb County is hiring 40 additional workers to help Forlini’s four-person staff with the recount, which will take place Monday, and possibly Tuesday, at the south campus of the Macomb County Community College. All recounts must be complete by Dec. 18. Election workers will examine 19,000 ballots, said Forlini, who doesn’t expect any

errors to be found. ‘I believe in my heart and soul and would be surprised if there would be changes in over 10 votes,’ said Forlini. ‘I just want a good, accurate and efficient recount.’” [Bridge Michigan, 12/9/22]

2021: Forlini said he appreciated the “hard work” of election conspiracy theorists going door to door searching for “ghost votes” but admitted they had not turned up any evidence of fraud.

“Conservative activists are knocking on doors across Michigan to hunt for evidence of “ghost votes” and other alleged “anomalies” used to re-litigate the 2020 election. A spokesperson for the Michigan Secretary of State said residents have no obligation to answer questions about how they voted and pointed to 250 statewide audits that affirmed President Joe Biden's victory. Organizers with Election Integrity Fund and Force said the door-to-door canvassing effort, announced at a Tuesday rally outside the state Capitol, is modeled after a similar attempt in Arizona to discredit the 2020 election. [...] Macomb County Clerk Anthony Forlini said Republican state House candidate Jacky Eubanks turned in several reports that were determined to be not credible. Forlini said he appreciates the ‘hard work’ of private canvassers, but their efforts haven't turned up evidence of fraud ‘so far.’” [MLive, 10/13/21]

- **Forlini investigated five alleged voter fraud cases brought to him by canvassers and none of them “produced anything.”** “But Macomb County Clerk Anthony Forlini said authorities looked into five cases Eubanks brought in and ‘none of the five cases produced anything.’” [Detroit News, 1/7/22]
- **Forlini called voter fraud canvassing groups “good patriots that just want answers.”** “Jacky Eubanks, a state House candidate who worked for Trump's campaign in 2020, canvassed Macomb County voters to find irregularities. In a December radio interview, Eubanks claimed the survey effort found ‘anomalies’ that point to potential fraud in Macomb County, but there's no way to know for sure without an audit. Forlini said Eubanks forwarded five cases of potential fraud to his office, but a police investigation revealed the claims were not credible. Forlini said Eubanks hasn't shared any other details of her canvassing effort. [...] ‘There are very vocal groups that were claiming certain things and I will consider many of them good patriots that just want answers,’ Forlini said. ‘We got them answers. I don't have an issue with people questioning. I would have a problem if they questioned the truth.’” [MLive, 1/13/22]
- **Forlini took allegations of voter fraud from Trump-backed canvassers “very seriously” and reported them to the police.** “Macomb County Clerk Anthony Forlini initially informed the Chesterfield Township Police Department of affidavits alleging voter fraud that were collected by a group working with Eubanks, according to police records. [...] On April 6, investigators contacted Forlini and told him ‘the complaint would be closed and was unfounded at this time.’ It was Forlini, a Republican and the clerk in Michigan's third largest county, who originally brought the claims Eubanks was making about the 2020 election to police. Forlini said he took the accusations ‘very seriously’ and wanted to make sure there was no election fraud. ‘If her claims were true, that is a serious, serious allegation,’ Forlini said. In June, Forlini filed an open records request to get the documents that resulted from the probe. Eubanks had stated that she herself had come under investigation, Forlini said, and he wanted to ensure that wasn't the case because that wasn't why he turned the matter over to police last year. ‘If that were the case, I would have jumped to her defense,’ Forlini said of Eubanks.” [Detroit News, 7/18/22]

2021: Forlini reported an increase in threats against election workers. “Macomb County was the largest county in Michigan that Trump won in November 2020. He defeated Biden in the county by 8

percentage points. Still, Forlini, a former state House member, told police in September 2021, he had ‘observed an increase in threats as compared to previous years as an elected official.’” [Detroit News, 7/18/22]

Election Audits

Forlini supported “strong chain of custody standards” and post-election “processes that reinforce confidence through transparency and verification.” On his campaign website, Forlini stated: “Anthony supports voting systems that are secure, auditable, and protected from avoidable vulnerabilities. That means: Results reporting that avoids unnecessary exposure to the internet (eliminating avoidable pathways), Strong chain-of-custody standards and physical security for equipment and ballots, Routine validation and documentation so systems are demonstrably consistent and trustworthy (including integrity checks), Post-election processes that reinforce confidence through transparency and verification”. [Anthony Forlini for Secretary of State, accessed [3/5/26](#)]

As Secretary, Forlini said he would “audit county clerks to keep consistency across state.” “As Secretary of State, Forlini will: - eliminate ERIC - Protect citizens only voting - Utilize all public databases to remove those not eligible to vote - Require watermarked ballots - Cut Secretary of State office wait times - Improve election worker training - Improve transparency - Audit county clerks to keep consistency across state”. [Anthony Forlini for Secretary of State, accessed [3/5/26](#)]

2021: Forlini paid contractor Pro V&V \$16,000 to get a “complete forensic image” of the county’s election hardware. “Michigan's third-largest county, where voters backed former President Donald Trump in 2020, is hiring a specialist to examine its election hardware and software. The work in Macomb County is not a second look at the results of the presidential election. Rather, the Republican county clerk, who was elected last year, said he wants to lead the state in ‘election integrity.’ A contractor, Pro V&V, will be paid roughly \$16,000 to take apart the county election server, Anthony Forlini said Tuesday. Pro V&V will take pictures, record serial numbers and perform other tasks to get a ‘complete forensic image’ of the server and hard drive. ‘I want to make sure we’re moving forward with the best practices,’ Forlini, a former state lawmaker, told The Associated Press. ‘This isn’t about overturning 2020 or anything along those lines. ... I’m not worried about the past. I’m working on the future.’ Forlini said state election officials are aware of the project and believe it’s a ‘good thing to do,’ Pro V&V, based in Alabama, has done work in Georgia and Arizona since the 2020 election. It is accredited by the U.S. Election Assistance Commission to certify machines.” [Associated Press, 10/5/21]

- **Forlini said he had no reason to doubt election results in Macomb County.** “Macomb County Clerk Anthony Forlini said Tuesday he plans to hire a cyber security firm to conduct a forensic audit of the county's election server to ‘restore the confidence of our election processes in Macomb County.’ ‘I cannot say with certainty whether or not we will find something from the past, but I can say that Macomb will lead the state in election integrity in the future,’ Forlini said in a statement. ‘We are in the process of establishing best election practices that we will continually look at and modify as laws and technology change.’ [...] Forlini said he has no reason to doubt the results in Macomb County. The audit will build public confidence in the local election system and assuage some residents' fears about outsiders' ability to interfere in the results, he said. ‘I’m trying to establish all the best practices for good, clean elections,’ Forlini told The Detroit News. ‘Not to say they weren’t clean before; I’m not trying to allude to that. I’m

trying to say that I want to be able to answer in the affirmative that, from a technology standpoint, we have clean elections.” [Detroit News, 10/6/21]

- **Forlini: “This is not about turning over the results of the election.”** “At a Macomb County Board of Commissioners meeting earlier this week, Macomb County's new clerk was accused of trying to ‘placate’ county voters who refuse to accept the 2020 election results by paying for an inspection of the election computer server. Dianne Keliher of Warren asked the county Board of Commissioners to reject Clerk Anthony Forlini paying a contractor, Pro V&V, \$16,000 to examine the Election Division's hardware and software. ‘The reason for this is to placate people and make them feel better,’ Keliher on Tuesday told the Finance/Audit/Budget Committee during the public-participation section. ‘I don't believe that an adult needs to be made to feeling better just because they carry a picket sign and have a loud voice.’ [...] Forlini, a Harrison Township Republican, said Thursday he is not seeking to placate constituents but to maintain the public's confidence in the voting system while demonstrating transparency. ‘What we are doing has is to make sure nothing has infiltrated our server from the past and preserving a digital image of the server’ to provide a base for future inspections, Forlini said. ‘We're going to ensure our server has not been compromised and doing everything to ensure we have fair and clean elections. This is not about turning over the results of the election.’” [Macomb Daily, 10/14/21]
- **Forlini’s audit found “no outside interference” in Macomb County’s elections.** “A forensic audit of election technology in Michigan's third largest county found ‘no outside interference,’ Republican Macomb County Clerk Anthony Forlini revealed Thursday. The examination and report from Alabama-based Pro V&V, a company that tests voting systems, further rebuts conspiracy theories by some supporters of former President Donald Trump that election equipment in the battleground state was hacked during the 2020 election. ‘As a result of the audit dated January 5, 2022, we learned that there was no outside interference in our election server, our election software, as well as our modem communication systems,’ Forlini wrote in a letter released Thursday, the one-year anniversary of the insurrection at the U.S. Capitol. ‘This was just one step to restore confidence in the election process,’ the clerk added.” [Detroit News, 1/8/22]

2021: Forlini ordered an audit to determine whether the 2020 election had been “hacked” in Macomb County. “Macomb County Clerk Anthony Forlini is delving into election technology to discover whether last November's presidential election could have been hacked and to ensure the integrity of future elections. Forlini revealed his plans to a group of about 30 sign-carrying, flag-wielding people who demanded an ‘audit’ of Macomb County's 2020 election Thursday afternoon outside the Elections Division of the Clerk's Office in Mount Clemens. The group later went to the nearby county Administration Building to call for an audit at the county Board of Commissioners meeting but the meeting had concluded minutes earlier. The rally and Forlini's efforts come as election integrity over the 2020 presidential election and voter access have become lightning-rod issues nationally. Many supporters of former President Trump claim President Biden supporters stole the election through fraud. ‘I want integrity in elections. I want confidence in election,’ the Republican clerk told The Macomb Daily. ‘I can't tell you whether it (2020 election) was hacked. I might be able to with more information.’” [Macomb Daily, 8/23/21]

- **Forlini asked Verizon to provide record of communications between city and township clerks to determine whether any suspicious interactions occurred.** “Forlini is looking into having a cyber-security firm investigate the ‘hash validation’ of his office's election computer server. That will determine whether any ‘unauthorized changes to the election system’ were

made to the server around the time of the November 2020 election. He said he has not determined whether he needs to seek board approval to hire a firm. ‘That could tell us who was in there and what was done,’ he said. ‘That would give us confidence that the proper protocols were done.’ Also, he is asking Verizon to provide record of communications between local city and township clerks to determine whether any suspicious interactions occurred. In addition, he ordered clerks in the county's 25-plus communities to provide the more than 400 USBs — one for each voting machine — to his office so the voting information from the Aug. 3 primary could be downloaded. He learned after the primary the USBs were not physically provided to election clerks though ballot images on the USBs' were transferred via modem to the election division. Forlini said he wants his efforts to result in ‘best practices.’ ‘We're asking for things that have never been asked for,’ he said. Forlini said election officials statewide need to catch up with technology, and he hopes Macomb County can serve as a model in the state to do that.” [Macomb Daily, 8/23/21]

Columnist M.L. Elrick: Forlini “commission[ed] a forensic audit in October 2021 to address concerns about election results, at a time when MAGA supporters were hurling 2020 election fraud allegations like Trump chucking rolls of paper towels in Puerto Rico after a hurricane.”

Columnist M.L. Elrick wrote, “Forlini, a soft-spoken former state representative, appealed to the party's still numerous suspicious minds by making ‘election integrity’ one of his themes. But he also emphasized his record of winning elections. Forlini's literature referenced one of his boldest moves as Macomb County Clerk - commissioning a forensic audit in October 2021 to address concerns about election results, at a time when MAGA supporters were hurling 2020 election fraud allegations like Trump chucking rolls of paper towels in Puerto Rico after a hurricane. Calling for an audit at a time when Trump supporters accusing the late Hugo Chavez of tampering with vote tabulators didn't require bravery. Declaring after the audit was completed that there had been ‘no outside interference’ in Macomb County's elections, did take some courage. And Forlini ended up telling the Detroit News he had no reason to doubt the election's results.” [Detroit Free Press, [3/30/26](#)]

2011: Forlini sponsored legislation to establish post-election audits of random precincts. “State Rep. Anthony Forlini has introduced legislation to help strengthen Michigan's election laws by calling for post-election audits of random precincts to make sure elections are complying with state law. The measure is part of a multi-bill package, which comprises Secretary of State Ruth Johnson's Secure and Fair Elections (SAFE) initiative related to campaign finance and election law. ‘Elections are vital to Michigan residents who want to have an active hand in government. If their precinct does not comply with election law, these voters are disenfranchised,’ said Forlini, R-Harrison Township. ‘This bill would establish a program to train and certify county clerks and their staff members by conducting election audits to ensure the law is being applied properly.’ Forlini's measure, House Bill 5062, also establishes continuing education for county, city, township and village clerks. ‘There have been several close elections in recent history where votes could not be recounted because of proper procedures were not followed,’ Forlini said. ‘One example is a school millage election in Crystal Falls where the millage failed by one vote. None of the votes from Crystal Falls were used in the recount because the ballot container had not been properly sealed.’” [Rep. Anthony Forlini Press Release, 10/13/11]

- **Gov. Rick Snyder signed Forlini’s legislation.** “The governor signed 11 bills regarding election reform. [...] H.B. 5062 and S.B. 752, sponsored by state Rep. Anthony Forlini and state Sen. Goeff Hansen, ensure proper handling of election materials by establishing election clerk education programs as well as a post-election review process. On-site ballots and absentee ballots must be printed using the same format to provide consistency for election officials

responsible for reporting results. The bills are now P.A.s 271 and 272.” [Gov. Rick Snyder Press Release, 7/3/12]

Proof of Citizenship

Votebeat: Forlini “has started what he calls ‘a movement’ to compare jury duty questionnaires specifically the forms where people claim they are not U.S. citizens and therefore ineligible to serve with voter rolls.” “Macomb County Clerk Anthony Forlini has started what he calls ‘a movement’ to compare jury duty questionnaires specifically the forms where people claim they are not U.S. citizens and therefore ineligible to serve with voter rolls. The Michigan Department of State is urging caution. MDOS sent a memo to election officials statewide on Thursday advising them of the potential pitfalls of comparing jury lists to the Qualified Voter File. A copy of the memo, obtained by Votebeat, warns that without collaboration with legal counsel and state election officials, missteps in the process could wrongly strip eligible voters of their registration or expose them to scrutiny.” [Votebeat, [3/12/26](#)]

2026: Forlini claimed his office found 15 noncitizens who were registered to vote and that three of those individuals cast ballots. “Anthony Forlini, the Macomb County clerk and a Republican candidate to be Michigan’s next secretary of state, said this week that he had found more than a dozen noncitizens on his county’s voter rolls — but there’s reason to be skeptical of his claims. Forlini told Votebeat on Thursday that a comparison of the county’s jury pool — specifically, the more than 230 people who have recused themselves from jury duty since September by saying they are not U.S. citizens — and the state’s qualified voter file found 15 people who were on both lists. Forlini said his data shows that ‘the system is flawed’ and needs adjustments. But comparing two separate lists is generally a fraught way to find actual noncitizens on the voter rolls, experts say, and verifying his findings will be difficult. [...] During a press conference Monday, Monika Rittner, a department supervisor in Forlini’s office, said that three of the 15 people flagged as potential noncitizens had voted before, including one who had voted ‘several times but has since been removed.’ [...] Forlini argued that his comparisons were functionally foolproof. He said his team compared names, ages, and addresses to verify that it was the same person who appeared on both lists.” [Votebeat, [1/16/26](#); ClickOnDetroit.com, [1/26/26](#)]

- **Secretary Benson questioned Forlini’s allegations and claimed his incomplete investigation subjected a valid U.S. citizen to a criminal probe.** “Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson said her office continues to investigate claims of noncitizens voting or registering to vote in Michigan, following allegations by Macomb County Clerk Anthony Forlini that he’d found more than a dozen noncitizens on the voting rolls. But Benson said the Bureau of Elections’ review so far of Forlini’s allegations found his investigation was incomplete and subjected at least one valid U.S. citizen who was eligible to vote to a criminal probe. ‘I have long said we need to conduct these reviews thoroughly and carefully, and this is why, because these accusations have real consequences for real people,’ Benson said Thursday in a call with reporters.” [The Detroit News, [1/29/26](#)]
- **MLive: “Of the 15 people flagged by Macomb County Clerk Anthony Forlini, three are confirmed U.S. citizens, according to Benson’s office.”** “Of the 15 people flagged by Macomb County Clerk Anthony Forlini, three are confirmed U.S. citizens, according to Benson’s office. Four are noncitizens who had their voter registrations canceled between 2012 and 2022. Another four are apparent noncitizens who have been asked to verify their citizenship or face registration cancellation. The citizenship status of the remaining four is still being verified. The investigation

found that one noncitizen voted in a 2018 election and had their registration canceled in 2022. Another person voted in 2024, but Benson's office has not yet determined whether they are a U.S. citizen.” [MLive, [1/31/26](#)]

- **Following Forlini’s claim, Republican members of Congress sent letter to Secretary Benson for additional information.** “On Wednesday, U.S. Reps. Jack Bergman (R-Watermeet), John Moolenaar (R-Caledonia), Bill Huizenga (R-Holland Township), Tim Walberg (R-Tipton), Tom Barrett (R-Charlotte), Lisa McClain (R-Bruce Township), and John James (R-Shelby Township) sent a letter to Benson following up on claims from Macomb County Clerk and Republican secretary of state candidate Anthony Forlini that there are 15 noncitizens on the state's voter rolls. Benson reviewed the names provided by Forlini and determined that three were citizens; four had been previously removed from the voter rolls; four were under review by the Bureau of Elections to verify their citizenship; and four are apparent noncitizens, who the bureau said it would send a letter asking them to confirm their eligibility to vote. If they do not respond, the bureau will cancel their registration. However, the Republican delegation remained unsatisfied, requesting additional information on Benson's probe into Forlini's claims, and slamming the secretary of state for refusing to comply with the Department of Justice's request for voter registration data.” [Michigan Advance, [2/4/26](#)]
- **State Rep. Mai Xiong: Forlini put the constitutional rights and privacy of Macomb County residents at risk through his public allegations.** In an op-ed, state Rep. Mai Xiong wrote, “The Macomb County Clerk made serious public allegations that cast doubt on our elections that are safe and secure. In the process, he put the constitutional rights and privacy protections of Macomb County residents at risk. Clerk Anthony Forlini held a press conference claiming he identified 15 people who declared they were non-citizens after receiving jury duty notices. He compared those names to Michigan's voter file and publicly suggested these individuals committed voter fraud, which is a felony. That is a serious accusation that should never be made lightly. [...] As lawmakers, we have a duty to protect every voter and resident's private data information rather than subject individuals to public accusations outside a courtroom. When public officials abuse their power, especially in ways that target Americans, naturalized U.S. citizens, and lawful permanent residents, it crosses a line. This isn't about party politics. It's about protecting people and safeguarding their rights. Macomb County residents deserve leaders who respect the law, uphold due process, and protect our constitutional rights not undermine them for political headlines.” [Macomb Daily, [3/3/26](#)]
- **Columnist M.L. Elrick: “... Forlini did seem to try a MAGA hat on for size by raising questions about whether people who were not citizens are registered to vote.”** Columnist M.L. Elrick wrote, “After deciding to run for Secretary of State, Forlini did seem to try a MAGA hat on for size by raising questions about whether people who were not citizens are registered to vote. But Forlini also has a track record of asking authorities to investigate potential wrongdoing - regardless of party affiliation - and resisting the temptation to lend credence to crackpot conspiracy theories.” [Detroit Free Press, [3/30/26](#)]
- **Forlini op-ed: Macomb County residents deserve a Secretary of State’s office that treats documented findings seriously.** In an op-ed, Forlini wrote, “Macomb County residents deserve a voter file that is accurate. They deserve a Secretary of State's office that treats documented findings seriously. And they deserve election officials who are willing to do the meticulous,

sometimes uncomfortable work of maintaining the integrity of the system. Accountability is not an attack. It is stewardship.” [Macomb Daily, [3/8/26](#)]

Forlini used his allegation of noncitizens on Macomb County’s voting rolls to push support for the SAVE Act. In a Facebook video, Forlini stated: “The SAVE Act. How important is it? Well, I’ll tell you. I think it’s very very important and the reason why- just a couple weeks ago, we found non-citizens on the voting rolls. And you know what? Part of that is because we’ve made it a lot easier for people to register which is a good thing. Or is it? Because now people are getting in on the voting rolls that probably shouldn’t be on the voting rolls. That’s why Congress needs to pass the SAVE Act. The SAVE Act’s going to ensure that U.S. citizens are on the voting rolls and isn’t that what we want? Just U.S. citizens? I think so. It’s going to be a little extra work but at the end of the day, that’s what we were looking for. Good, solid voting rolls and I’m all about that. Let’s make it happen.” [Facebook, “Anthony G. Forlini,” [2/3/26](#)]

- **In Fox 2 interview, Forlini reiterated support of the SAVE Act, a federal bill mandating proof of citizenship.** “FOX 2: ‘On that note, if you were Secretary of State today, what specific changes would you implement to verify citizenship - and how would you do that without creating new barriers for eligible voters?’ Forlini: ‘I think there is the SAVE Act that’s going on at the national level and I think that’s important. What we’ve done over the past few years is make it so easy, that we kind of left holes open. Holes in the system. We can’t have these holes anymore.’” [Fox 2 WJBK, [2/6/26](#)]

Forlini supported for the proposed “Citizens Only Voting” ballot measure. On his campaign website, Forlini posted: “Reminder: Return Your Citizen Only Voting Petitions - Do you have signatures that you have gathered for the Citizens Only Voting petition effort? Please finish and return them by February 25.” [Anthony Forlini for Secretary of State, accessed [3/5/26](#)]

- **Bridge: The proposal would require citizenship verification for all voters, mandate removal of noncitizens from voter rolls after a 45-day window, and would tighten voter ID rules.** “If it makes the ballot and is approved by voters, the proposal would require verification of citizenship for all voters while mandating the removal of noncitizens from voting rolls after a 45-day response window. It would also tighten voter ID rules by eliminating an option for voters without an ID to vote by submitting an affidavit of identity. The measure would task lawmakers with figuring out a way to provide low-income Michiganders access to citizenship-proving documents at ‘no cost.’” [Bridge Michigan, [4/15/26](#)]

Forlini: The government “has some responsibility” to verify citizenship before adding the to voter rolls or jury pools. “Forlini believes that it’s not enough for people to self-report their citizenship when they register to vote. The government ‘has some responsibility,’ Forlini said, to verify their citizenship. He pointed to his recent attempt to find noncitizens on the voting rolls by comparing them to the jury pool as an example. That effort flagged 15 voters as potential noncitizens, although the secretary of state’s office later said that only five of them appeared to be, while at least three were citizens after all. ‘How does this happen? Why does it happen? It’s a systemic problem, not a political problem,’ he said. ‘Nobody wants noncitizens in the jury pool or on the voting records. ... So we need to set up systems that are better to avoid this happening.’” [Votebeat, [3/2/26](#)]

Voter Rolls

Forlini called for “regular cleanup” of voter rolls along with “clear documentation and due process safeguards”. On his campaign website, Forlini stated: “Voter rolls must be accurate and maintained in a way that follows the law and protects eligible voters: Regular cleanup for deceased voters and outdated records, Clear documentation and due process safeguards, Coordination with local clerks so maintenance is consistent statewide”. [Anthony Forlini for Secretary of State, accessed [3/5/26](#)]

As Secretary, Forlini said he would “eliminate ERIC” and would use public databases to remove ineligible voters. “As Secretary of State, Forlini will: - eliminate ERIC - Protect citizens only voting - Utilize all public databases to remove those not eligible to vote - Require watermarked ballots - Cut Secretary of State office wait times - Improve election worker training - Improve transparency - Audit county clerks to keep consistency across state”. [Anthony Forlini for Secretary of State, accessed [3/5/26](#)]

Forlini said his office removed hundreds of dead people from the voter rolls. “Elected in 2020 and reelected in 2024 to Macomb County Clerk, Forlini is a former State Representative and a former Township Supervisor. While he has been in office, Clerk Forlini: [...] Removed hundreds of dead people off voting roles that were over the age of 100”. [Anthony Forlini for Secretary of State, Press release, [9/24/25](#)]

Mail Voting

2024: Forlini criticized the Warren City Clerk’s decision not to pre-process ballots ahead of the November election. “To try to ease some of the burden, and get results reported faster, the state now allows local clerks to begin ‘pre-processing’ absentee ballots, or getting a head start on the verification steps, as much as eight days before Election Day. They still have to wait until after polls close on Election Day to calculate the vote totals from those ballots. The change is especially important for large jurisdictions that would otherwise need to process thousands of mailed ballots on a busy Election Day. But not every large city is taking advantage of the option. In Warren, the third-largest city in Michigan and the largest in Macomb County, City Clerk Sonja Buffa has opted not to pre-process ballots, going against the guidance of county and state officials. ‘Pre-processing is not the law,’ Buffa told Votebeat. ‘We do everything that is mandated.’ That decision could reflect poorly on the county and the state, Macomb County Clerk Anthony Forlini warned. ‘All the clerks that are doing a great job? It’ll make them look bad,’ Forlini said. ‘The rest of the country is going to be waiting on Macomb County.’” [Votebeat, [10/31/24](#)]

2022: Forlini praised a deal with Governor Whitmer to allow clerks more time to pre-process absentee ballots. “Michigan lawmakers have reached a deal with the governor to allow more time to process what's expected to be a flood of absentee ballots during the upcoming November midterm and beyond. The measure, which passed Wednesday on the final day of the legislative session in Lansing was seen as a major victory for the state's election clerks because it will free up the two days before Election Day to sort through the deluge of mailed-in ballots. [...] The change means clerks can now open ballot envelopes to check the sender's return address and mark voter registration numbers, which would save critical time on the night of the actual count. ‘This is a great thing for clerks because they are under the gun,’ Macomb County Clerk Anthony Forlini told Detroit news station WDIV. ‘At 8 p.m., the polls close, and people want results right away. Unfortunately, when you're processing all day long, particularly with the amount of absentee ballots coming in, they need time.’” [United Press International, 9/29/22]

- **Forlini said pre-processing of absentee ballots was a “welcome change.”** “Until this year, election officials could not check ballots and tabulate them before Election Day. That delayed the reporting of election results in 2020. But under a new law that took effect earlier this month, ballot pre-processing was allowed to begin over a week ago in cities and townships with more than 5,000 residents. Smaller municipalities were allowed to pre-process and tabulate absentee ballots on Monday. ‘It was a welcome change for all the clerks,’ Macomb County Clerk Anthony Forlini said.” [Detroit News, 2/27/24]

2021: Forlini: “It’s easy to cheat” on absentee ballots. “Forlini said Friday he has received ‘a handful’ of affidavits from citizens alleging their vote was cast without their knowledge or other some sort of discrepancy, adding he is reviewing them to determine, ‘was there a mistake made, or was there fraud involved.’ Forlini said the state needs to upgrade the security of absentee ballots, which he said can be easily manipulated. ‘It’s easy to cheat’ on absentee ballots, he said, declining to elaborate.” [Macomb Daily, 8/23/21]

Early Voting

2026: Forlini said he supported early voting and believed it helped Republicans. “Among the topics of discussion at the secretary of state panel was 2018’s Prop 3, which automatically registered voters and allowed for no-reason absentee voting among other things, and 2022’s Prop 2, which created nine days of early voting and required the state to fund a number of absentee ballot drop-boxes, among other things. Largely, candidates were against the proposals, with Amanda Love commenting, ‘We don’t have an election day anymore. It’s nine days. It’s ridiculous.’ Anthony Forlini, who opposed most measures of the two proposals, did say he supports nine-day voting, which he believes helps Republicans. ‘I saw it firsthand as the (Macomb) County clerk — Republicans getting out to vote and feeling comfortable because they’re putting their ballot into the tabulator, getting it counted, and the lines aren’t as long,’ Forlini said.” [Midland Daily News, 1/12/26]

2023: Forlini said that state funding for early voting was insufficient for Macomb County’s needs. “As the impact of early voting mandate’s rolls out, county and other municipal clerks’ offices are looking at higher spending during election season. Many local officials report that added state funding will not cover all the necessary expenses . Proposal 2, which voters approved last year, included the right of citizens to file a single application to vote absentee in all elections. It also requires state-funded absentee-ballot drop boxes and paid postage for absentee applications and ballots. The proposal also requires at least a nine-day early voting window for all elections. The Legislature budgeted \$46 million this fiscal year for implementing early voting. Of that amount, \$30 million to assist the clerks’ offices during the 2024 primaries and general election. [...] Macomb County Clerk Anthony Forlini said he applied for \$1.4 million because of the number of voters in large communities like Warren and Sterling Heights. Forlini said that when the county receives the funds, he will give all but \$100,000 to municipal clerks. ‘They’re the ones that need the money,’ Forlini said. ‘They’re the ones that run the elections.’ Forlini said it will pay for new tabulators – voting machines – that need updating because early voting machines must be separately programmed from those used on Election Day. Forlini also said much of the funding will pay for additional staffing needed for the early voting period. Under the ballot proposal, nine days is the minimum allowed for early voting. Counties have the option of setting a period of up to 29 days. Forlini said the state money is simply not enough for Macomb County’s 24 jurisdictions, which range from Warren with 140,000 voters to Harrison Township with only 24,000. Forlini said only 40%-80% of his county’s needs, and needs across the state, will be funded. ‘They’re asked to do more without giving them 100% funding,’ Forlini said.” [Capital News Service, 10/13/23]

2022: Forlini said he supported in person early voting but had concerns about providing towns with enough resources to implement it. “If Michigan voters approve a set of voting reforms on the November ballot, they'll get nine days of early in-person voting in future major elections. Local clerks who would be charged with providing the new option say it would make voting more convenient and elections smoother to conduct but at a cost they don't yet know and with no clear plans to pay for it. [...] Macomb County Clerk Anthony Forlini says that while he believes early in-person voting should be an option for voters, he is concerned about how townships with fewer resources will deal with it. ‘For the smaller communities, most of the clerks are part-time, and now they have to be open longer,’ Forlini said.” [Bridge Michigan, 10/5/22]

Errors

After the November 2024, Roughly 33,000 absentee ballots in two Macomb County cities were retabulated because a small portion of the ballots were not counted due to “overvotes” “Roughly 33,000 absentee ballots in two Macomb County communities were retabulated this week because a small portion of the ballots were not counted properly, said Clerk and Register of Deeds Anthony Forlini. He said the retabulation of 8,000 absentee ballots from Roseville and 25,000 from Warren is being overseen by the Macomb County Board of Canvassers. He and Warren City Clerk Sonja Buffa said it hasn't changed the outcome of any races, though. Tabulators are supposed to flag ‘overvotes,’ or instances of someone voting for more candidates in a specific race than are allowed. An election worker then ‘adjudicates,’ or reviews, the ballot to see if it was in fact an ‘overvote.’ He said that Warren and Roseville election workers did not manually adjudicate these ballots, which means that some votes were not counted that were supposed to be. [...] He said this was because someone in each of the city clerk's offices changed the tabulator settings. Buffa confirmed that this was the case. ‘I'm guessing it was accidentally changed,’ she said in a text message.” [The Detroit News, 11/14/24]

2024: Forlini reported four cases of suspected double voting in St. Clair Shores. “Potential voter fraud will be investigated in St. Clair Shores after it was discovered four people each voted twice in the recent primary. Macomb County Clerk Anthony Forlini said he has reported the instances to county Prosecutor Peter Lucido for investigation of possible criminal violations, as well as elections officials at the Secretary of State, as required by law. Four people voted once by absentee and once at the polls in three precincts – 7, 15 and 16, according to Forlini. ‘Our office has requested a thorough investigative process of each instance and if a crime was committed, we expect the lawbreakers to be held accountable to the furthest extent of the law,’ Forlini said in a press release. Forlini said in an interview the double-voting could have been the result of mistakes and one of a number of scenarios could have occurred. But he said he did not wish to speculate and believes an investigation will determine whether what occurred involved nefarious intent. Forlini said when the voters arrived at the polling location Aug. 6 to cast a ballot, they were told by a poll worker that records showed they already voted. Each person denied they voted, and the poll worker allowed them to cast a ballot. Forlini said the poll worker shouldn't have been allowed to bypass the system and allow the tally; only the local clerk of a community should be allowed to do that, he said. He commended St. Clair Shores Clerk Abby Barrett for identifying the incidents and reporting it to his office. The Secretary of State has turned over the incident to the Attorney General's Office.” [Macomb Daily, 8/15/24]

- **Forlini said the double voting cases were the first he knew of during his tenure as Clerk.** “In his four years as Macomb County Clerk, Forlini said that this was the first instance of potential double voting that he knew of. He said it was important to him that the county was very public

with any potential problems, though, because he wanted to be transparent about what the election process actually looked like to quell any rumors or conspiracy theories. 'I don't want to not expose any problems we may have,' Forlini said. 'I want to look at it right away, see it for what it is and deal with it.' Macomb County is considered a swing county that regularly attracts national attention during presidential elections as an indicator of political trends. But Forlini, a Republican, said his focus was more on making clear the county had 'a good, clean election.'" [Michigan Advance, 8/27/24]

- **Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson praised Forlini for reporting the double voting cases.** "In a statement last week, Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson said she was grateful for Forlini's help 'in ensuring that voter fraud is rare and that when it happens, we catch it and prosecute it to the fullest extent of the law.' Macomb County followed the security protocols in place, Benson continued, and she referred the matter to the attorney general's office for additional investigation." [Michigan Advance, 8/27/24]
- **Sept. 2024: The Macomb County Prosecutor's Office did not find probable cause to charge the alleged double voters with a crime.** "Although the Macomb County Prosecutor's Office announced last week it would not be authorizing charges in connection with four alleged double-voting incidents during the August primary election, the incident is still being scrutinized by law enforcers. [...] Macomb County Prosecutor Peter Lucido said based on the information he was given, probable cause did not exist to prove a crime was committed. 'He told me it appears that the four people submitted their absentee ballots shortly after they received them in the mail and forgot they had already voted and went to the polls,' said Forlini. Forlini said he has not seen verification that the absentee ballots for the four voters were spoiled and has not seen a copy of the police report filed in St. Clair Shores." [Macomb Daily, 9/5/24]
- **October 2024: Despite the Macomb County prosecutor's decision, Attorney General Dana Nessel announced felony charges against the voters following their own investigation.** "Four St. Clair Shores voters who allegedly cast two separate ballots in the August primary are facing felony charges, a surprise to the voters who thought they were in the clear after the local prosecutor declined to press charges. The alleged double voting was the result of voters casting both absentee and in-person ballots during the primary on Aug. 6. It was caught shortly afterward by voting officials and investigated by local police before Macomb County prosecutor Peter Lucido ultimately declined to prosecute. But Attorney General Dana Nessel on Friday announced felony charges against those voters, as well as three St. Clair Shores assistant clerks, after her office conducted another investigation into the double votes." [Michigan Advance, 10/4/24]

Election Security

March 2026: Under Forlini, Macomb County began using "Ballot Verifier" to upload every ballot cast for anyone to see online. "Macomb County has begun to post online an image of every ballot cast in the pivotal swing county. The county, Michigan's third most populous, is using a program called 'Ballot Verifier' to upload scans of every ballot cast for anyone to see. More than 80,000 ballots from the November 2025 election are already online, as is the 'cast vote record,' which shows how tabulators read each ballot. Images of cast ballots - which do not include a voter's name, address, party affiliation, or other identifying information - are already public record and can be requested through local officials. Putting them online simply improves transparency, Macomb County Clerk Anthony Forlini said. 'We all

wonder, when we put our ballot in, 'did it score it the right way?' Forlini told Votebeat. 'This takes a little bit of the mystery out of it and adds a little bit of accountability for all of us.' The premise is simple: Let voters see the ballots, and they can judge the results for themselves." [Votebeat, 3/8/26]

- **Forlini: "No ballot can be traced back to any individual voter. The system ensures transparency and integrity of election results, while protecting voter privacy and security."** "The Macomb County Clerk's Office is offering an online service where users can view images of the more than 80,000 ballots cast in the last election and those going forward. County Clerk Anthony Forlini introduced the "ballot verifier" service on its website provided on software by Civera company earlier this week at a news conference attended by Civera founder and CEO Adam Friedman and a half-dozen local-community clerks in the county in the Elections Division office in Mount Clemens. 'This is really a great way of being able to provide for our citizens a method of accountability, transparency,' Forlini said at the conference Monday. [...] The images cannot be traced to a voter so privacy remains, Forlini explained. 'All ballots are anonymous,' he said. 'No ballot can be traced back to any individual voter. The system ensures transparency and integrity of election results, while protecting voter privacy and security.'" [Macomb Daily, [3/1/26](#)]

2026: Forlini raised concerns about the cybersecurity of elections. "Forlini said he believes Michigan's elections are physically secure, adding that at least in Macomb County, voters do not feel threatened when they vote and are able to vote their conscience. He was less certain about cybersecurity, saying that when he initially became clerk, he felt there were 'holes that could have been manipulated.' 'I think all clerks need ... to do a little better job in holding the standards and the protocols in place,' Forlini said. As clerk, he said he took measures to improve election security such as using watermarked paper for ballots and hash validations on tabulators an algorithmic tool that helps election officials verify software was not tampered with after certification and offering more training for clerks and election workers." [Votebeat, [3/2/26](#)]

Forlini touted his concerns about modems being connected to election tabulators. "So in 2021, I shut off the modems - and I didn't stop there. I completely removed the hardware that allowed electronic transmission of data from the tabulators." On his campaign website, Forlini stated: "Not long after I was elected in 2020, I started asking more questions about the technology being used in our election process. One thing immediately stood out to me as a red flag from a security standpoint: the presence of modems connected to election tabulators. Any time you introduce connectivity into sensitive systems, you increase risk - period. And when we're talking about the public's vote, we cannot afford unnecessary risk or uncertainty. So in 2021, I shut off the modems - and I didn't stop there. I completely removed the hardware that allowed electronic transmission of data from the tabulators. We were the first county clerk to shut them off, and the first in the state to take that step. Why did I do it? Because I believe election integrity isn't a slogan - it's a responsibility. And leadership means doing what's right, even when it isn't easy." [Anthony Forlini for Secretary of State, accessed [3/5/26](#)]

2025: Forlini emphasized his commitment to election security and transparency and said measures taken to boost public confidence included: turning off modems in proximity to ballot transmissions to prevent hacking, tabulator scanning to ease FOIA requests and mandating watermarked ballots. "Regardless of his views on the security of the 2020 election itself, Forlini emphasized his commitment to security and transparency in his campaign announcement. He outlined measures he took as a clerk to boost public confidence in elections, including turning off modems in proximity to ballot transmission machines to prevent remote hacking, introducing tabulator scanning to

ease FOIA requests and mandating watermarked ballots in Macomb County.” [Macomb County Legal News, [9/29/25](#)]

2024: Forlini held a training session for election officials and law enforcement officers on securing the election. “A training session was held Monday in Mount Clemens to help law enforcement officials, municipal clerks and election staff throughout the county secure the upcoming November election. Macomb County Prosecutor Peter Lucido and county Clerk Anthony Forlini staged the first-time county event, where several election experts and state election officials informed attendees about election laws, including preventing, recognizing and prosecuting potential Election Day crimes, [...] ‘Election integrity is a defining cornerstone of our election system and we are committed to making sure our election laws are respected and followed,’ Forlini said. ‘I believe in the integrity of our election process. Helping elections officials and law enforcement to improve communication and be better prepared is another level of protection in making sure our elections are defended and protected.’” [Macomb Daily, [9/10/24](#)]

2024: Under Forlini, Macomb County added watermarks to ballots. “Watermarks have been added to voters’ ballots in Macomb County to help ensure election integrity security. County Clerk Anthony Forlini, who oversees elections throughout the county, added the faint watermarked phrase, ‘Official Ballot,’ on the 744,000 ones printed for the Nov. 5 presidential election. The words are visible when the documents is held up to the light. They were embedded into the fibers of the ballot paper during the milling process, as opposed to being printed onto the paper, Forlini said, adding the new wrinkle is part of his ongoing efforts to assure security of and confidence in the election process. ‘This is one more layer of the type of things we’ve done,’ he said. There have been no known incidents of fake ballots being produced, but Forlini said it’s part of an overall prevention process. ‘Any hole I find I have to do whatever I can to close the hole,’ he said.” [Macomb Daily, 10/18/24]

2021: Forlini added a feature to Macomb County’s voting machines to provide a digital copy of every ballot. “Macomb County Clerk Anthony Forlini has added a feature to the county’s voting machine that provides a digital copy of every ballot. Encrypted USBs that are inserted into the Elections Systems & Software machines were recently reprogrammed to add the capability for Tuesday’s primary and beyond. It will allow officials to go back and generate a viewable copy, if necessary. ‘I think it’s going to add a level of confidence for the voters,’ Forlini said. ‘This is the first time we’re doing something like this.’ [...] Forlini and Chief Election Clerk Michael Grix said they believe Macomb is one of only a few counties in Michigan to add the ability to retrieve digital copies of ballots. The Republican clerk said he added the USB feature in light of claims of voting fraud in Michigan and nationally in the November election. ‘We get a lot of questions on election integrity, and we’ve taken steps in Macomb County to go above and beyond,’ he said.” [Macomb Daily, 8/2/21]

- **Forlini’s new requirements delayed election results.** “Results from Tuesday’s election came into the Macomb County Clerk’s Office later than they could have been because of a new requirement by the first-term clerk. Clerk Anthony Forlini for the first time mandated local community clerks have the USB “sticks” from each voting machine personally delivered to the county Clerk’s Office in Mount Clemens so the information on the drive could be uploaded and provide elections officials with access to all ballots, if needed. Each machine has a USB log. ‘It wasn’t bad,’ Forlini said, referring to the delay. ‘It was more work, no doubt.’ The last results from 20 communities were delivered to the office at 1:02 a.m. by Eastpointe. Four other communities results came in between around midnight and 12:30 a.m. Polls closed at 8 p.m. The extra step forced candidates for office in some communities to wait longer. St. Clair Shores City

Clerk Mary Kotowski posted the results on the city web site before the sticks were taken to county elections officials so those city council candidates and the public could learn results earlier. In the past, the clerks would modem the information from the sticks to the county elections office. The requirement was part of an ongoing effort by Forlini to try to improve trust in the elections in light of unproven claims of voter fraud in the 2020 election. He hired a company, Prov V&V, for \$16,000 to conduct a forensic examination of the county's election server and hard drive. A report on the recent examination should be completed 'in a couple of weeks,' he said. Forlini believes Michigan Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson should require retention of USB logs for 22 months following an election as required for retention of paper ballots." [Macomb Daily, 11/3/21]

Voting Machines

Bridge: "If elected, Forlini said he wants to strengthen safeguards around voting machines and standardize best practices statewide." "Elected Macomb County clerk in 2020, Forlini previously served in the state House from 2011 to 2017 and as Harrison Township Supervisor from 2004 to 2010. If elected, Forlini said he wants to strengthen safeguards around voting machines and standardize best practices statewide." [Bridge Michigan, [3/26/26](#)]

Redistricting

2021: Forlini declined to submit his own reapportionment plan to the County Apportionment Commission because he felt his role was "to be as down the middle as possible." "The Macomb County Apportionment Commission met for the first time last week to kick off its once-a-decade assignment to approve a redrawing of the 13 county commission boundaries to reflect the latest population trends. The five-member commission approved some administrative tasks at the July 28 meeting held in the chambers of the county Board of Commissioners on the ninth floor of the county Administration Building in Mount Clemens. 'Our mission as a group is to get a fair, legal plan for redistricting that the majority of the board will agree to,' commission Chairman Anthony Forlini, the county clerk, said following the meeting. The commission also is comprised of county Prosecutor Peter Lucido, county Treasurer Lawrence Rocca, county Democratic Party Chairman Ed Bruley and county Republican Chairman Mark Forton. 'We all get along very well,' Forlini said. "The big thing for us is to be open and transparent. 'The commission will rely on information from the 2020 U.S. Census, which is expected to provide numbers later this month, Forlini said. The commission must approve a new district map from 30 to 60 days the formal census data are provided. Any resident or group in the county, including commission members, can submit a plan for the commissioner to approve. Forlini said he will not submit a plan. 'I believe it is my job to be as down the middle as possible,' he said." [Macomb Daily, 8/4/21]

Campaign Reforms

2014: Forlini sponsored legislation requiring the sponsor of issue ads and robocalls to clearly identify themselves. "The Michigan House today unanimously approved legislation authored by state Rep. Anthony Forlini requiring the sponsor of issue ads and robo-calls to clearly identify themselves during an election period. Forlini, R-Harrison Township, said House Bill 5222 requires sponsor identification from 60 days prior to a primary election through the day of the general election. 'Constituents across the state have been demanding reforms to being harassed at home with unidentified electronic calls. We need our elections to be transparent, and voters are not best served or informed if

individuals or groups are allowed to cower behind a cloak of anonymity,' Forlini said. 'Nobody likes annoying robo-calls at all hours of the day, and this bill requires any such automated call to carry a disclaimer identifying the sponsor. By doing so, voters who have questions may contact the originator of the ads and get answers.'" [Rep. Anthony Forlini Press Release, 2/20/14]

2012: Forlini sponsored legislation to limit the frequency and size of an elected official's name on election materials. "A measure introduced by Rep. Anthony Forlini to limit the frequency and size of an elected official's name on election materials today was enacted by the House of Representatives. House Bill 4653 bars elected or appointed officials from displaying their names on temporary materials at a polling location. House Bill 4656 prevents the display of the names of any elected or appointed official on election-related materials such as absentee ballots sent to voters. 'This will level the playing field in elections that involve incumbents who are also candidates in some races,' said Forlini, R-Harrison Township. 'Often absentee ballots arrive in an envelope that bears the name of an elected official sending the ballots, and often that same official is listed as a candidate on the ballot. That could give a candidate an unfair edge over an opponent.' Signs at polling places that instruct voters on procedure also often have the name of the official who is in charge of the election on them, giving them an unfair advantage. Their opponent cannot post a sign bearing their name on it within 100 feet of the polling place entrance. 'This is common-sense legislation that will remove any advantage an elected or appointed official who is overseeing elections might have because of signage or a return address on an envelope,' Forlini said." [Rep. Anthony Forlini Press Release, 1/25/12]

- **Gov. Rick Snyder signed HB 4653.** "The governor also signed two other bills. H.B. 4653, sponsored by state Rep. Anthony Forlini, prohibits the names of elected and appointed officials from any material temporarily appearing in a polling place on Election Day. Candidates currently cannot display campaign material within 100 feet of a polling location, and including lawmakers' welcome signs and the like in this ban upholds the spirit of fair voting space. The bill now is P.A. 156." [Gov. Rick Snyder Press Release, 6/5/12]
- **Gov. Rick Snyder signed HB 4656.** "The governor signed 11 bills regarding election reform. [...] H.B. 4656, sponsored by state Rep. Anthony Forlini, prohibits the name of any elected official or any person running for official office to appear on any ballot related materials. It is already law that no candidate can display material within 100 feet of a polling place. With regard to an absentee ballot, the envelope and related materials is identified as a polling place, therefore no official names may appear on the envelope. The bill is now P.A. 280." [Gov. Rick Snyder Press Release, 7/3/12]

Recall Efforts

2021: Forlini was the only member of the Macomb County Elections Commission to vote against approving recall petitions for Chippewa Valley Schools Board members. "A recall effort involving local school board members has taken another step. In December, petitions were filed to recall four members of the Chippewa Valley Schools Board of Education. The members stated in the petition are Board President Frank Bednard, Vice President Denise Aquino, Secretary Beth Pyden and Trustee George Sobah. The four have served a combined 76 years on the board. The recall effort is led by Macomb Township resident Terry Prince. At the Jan. 20 Macomb County Election Commission meeting, one item up for discussion was to judge clarity and factuality of wording on the recall petition filed against the board members. Macomb County Treasurer Larry Rocca, Macomb County Clerk/Register of Deeds Anthony Forlini and Macomb County Sheriff Anthony Wickersham sit on the

three-member commission. All petitions passed, with Forlini casting the lone ‘no’ vote.” [C&G Newspapers, 2/8/21]

2012: Forlini introduced legislation to reform the recall process. “A package of six bills introduced by the House delegation from Macomb County today aims to reform recall election procedures by streamlining the petitioning process to protect the constitutional rights of both voters and officeholders. ‘Michigan law has weighed down the recall process with a morass of confusing and overlapping procedures, which permits the misuse of the recall election by special interest groups,’ said state Rep. Anthony Forlini, R-Harrison Township, sponsor of one of the bills. ‘The current law potentially violates the rights of the voting public and the officeholders.’ The package includes: [...] HB 6060, introduced by Forlini, requires petitions to be factually accurate before they are approved.” [Rep. Anthony Forlini Press Release, 11/28/12]

- **Forlini supported limiting the number of recall elections to “reduce voter fatigue.”** “Limit recall elections to May and November. ‘This would reduce voter fatigue and the seemingly never ending election cycle,’ said state Rep. Anthony Forlini, R-Harrison Township. That requirement also could have an impact on a proposed recall against Detroit Mayor Dave Bing, whose term of office ends in September 2013. The bills are ‘common sense reform,’ that will save communities money by cutting down on the number of recall elections, Forlini said.” [Detroit Free Press, 12/5/12]
- **Gov. Rick Snyder signed Forlini’s recall bills.** “Gov. Rick Snyder today signed bipartisan legislation to create a fairer and more streamlined process for recalling elected officials. [...] House Bills 6060 and 6063, sponsored by state Reps. Anthony Forlini and Harold Haugh, now are Public Acts 417 and 418 of 2012.” [Gov. Rick Snyder Press Release, 12/20/12]

SECOND AMENDMENT

2014: As a state legislator, Forlini voted in favor of SB 789, a bill that would allow individuals who were the subject of a restraining order, to obtain a concealed pistol license. “Today, Gov. Rick Snyder vetoed two bills aimed at changing how a person can obtain a concealed pistol permit in the state. Senate Bills 789 and 790 were passed during the Legislature’s last ‘lame duck’ session. Gov. Snyder said there were several elements of the bills he supported, but there was one loophole he didn’t support -- the legislation, he said, could have put victims of domestic abuse at risk. From his veto letter: ‘I am particularly concerned by the fact that SB 789 would allow certain persons who are the subject of a personal protection order (PPO) to obtain a concealed pistol license. Under the current law, no person who is the subject of a PPO may obtain a license to carry a concealed pistol. Senate Bill 789 would limit this restriction to apply only in those cases where the PPO also includes express language stating that the subject of the PPO is not allowed to purchase or possess a firearm. When seeking a PPO, victims of domestic abuse may not know to ask the court for a specific restriction on the subject’s ability to purchase and possess firearms. Today, PPOs issued without this language still have the effect of preventing the subject from obtaining a concealed pistol license. Because SB 789 would remove this blanket protection in cases when the PPO fails to specifically address firearms-whatever the reason for the omission-it may increase the risks faced by victims of domestic abuse.’” [Michigan Public Radio, [1/15/15](#); SB 789 (Roll Call #806), [12/19/14](#)]

- **CNN: “The measure would have overhauled Michigan’s concealed permit applications in a way that would have allowed people who faced restraining orders as a result of domestic violence or stalking allegations to obtain guns, as long as their orders didn’t specifically restrict their access to firearms.”** “Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder has made a rare move for a Republican state executive: He rebuffed the National Rifle Association. Snyder vetoed a bill on Thursday that had pitted gun rights advocates against former Arizona congresswoman Gabby Giffords and anti-domestic violence organizations. The measure would have overhauled Michigan’s concealed permit applications in a way that would have allowed people who faced restraining orders as a result of domestic violence or stalking allegations to obtain guns, as long as their orders didn’t specifically restrict their access to firearms. The NRA and gun rights advocates said those fears were overblown – but Snyder rejected their arguments in a statement issued on Thursday.” [CNN, [1/15/15](#)]

2012: Forlini voted in favor of a bill that would have allowed concealed firearms in gun-free zones, including in schools, day care centers, stadiums, and churches. “Michigan's GOP Governor Rick Snyder vetoes a bill that would have allowed concealed pistols in schools, day care centers, stadiums, and churches. Republican Michigan Governor Rick Snyder vetoed a bill Tuesday afternoon that would have allowed concealed pistols to be carried in schools and other places where they had been banned. The bill would also have allowed pistol owners, after additional training and obtaining proper permits, to carry their weapons in places of worship, schools, day care centers, and stadiums. In a letter to the Michigan Legislature, Governor Snyder said that Michigan needs a more comprehensive review of its gun policies. He said he vetoed the bill because it had no provision for public spaces to opt out of the concealed-carry plan. ‘Unfortunately, the bill did not allow schools, public day care centers, or public hospitals to prohibit persons from carrying concealed weapons on their premises. For that reason, I am vetoing Senate Bill 59.’ Snyder said that Friday’s school shooting was a factor ‘for a thorough review of [the bill].’” [NBC News, [12/18/12](#); SB 59 (Roll Call #821), [12/13/12](#)]

2012: Forlini voted in favor of a bill that would eliminate background checks for private gun dealers. “At a press conference today inside the Capitol, Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero had some potent words for a bill he and other opponents say would make it easier for criminals to obtain guns. ‘I’m here today because we in Lansing have buried one too many young persons as a result of gun violence,’ Bernero said. ‘We’re looking for help, we’re looking for sanity — not the kind of thing that is contained in this outrageous, ridiculous and asinine bill.’ The bill that’s catching flak from the mayor is HB 5225, which was introduced by Rep. Paul Opsommer, R-Dewitt. It passed the House in June by a 74-36 vote with bipartisan support, including from Lansing state Rep. Barb Byrum. The bill passed the Senate Judiciary Committee in September. It’s waiting on a vote in the Senate. Federal law requires licensed gun dealers, like gun shops, to run a background check on all gun buyers. But unlicensed private dealers, like those selling online, do not have to. Michigan law fills in that loophole by requiring all handgun buyers to pass a background check before receiving a permit to purchase, as well as pass a basic firearms training exam. HB 5225 would eliminate those requirements in Michigan. Opponents of the bill, like the Michigan State Police, say elimination of the requirement would make it easier for criminals who are not permitted to own guns to obtain one through a private dealer.” [Lansing City Pulse, 12/3/12; HB 5225 (Roll Call #433), [6/13/12](#)]

LGBTQ+ RIGHTS

2015: As a state legislator, Forlini supported legislation to allowing faith-based adoption agencies to refuse service to anyone they objected to, including same-sex couples. “In a series of party line

votes last Wednesday morning, Republicans on the House Families, Children and Seniors Committee told kids waiting in the state's adoption line that religious beliefs of adoption agencies are more important than the kids' need for a stable home. Five Republican members of the committee passed House Bills 4188, 4189 and 4190 over the objections of the committee's three Democrats. The bills are now on their way to the House floor for action. Reps. Tom Hooker, R-Wyoming; Jim Runestad, R-White Lake Township; Kathy Crawford, R-Nov; Anthony Forlini, R-Harrison Township; and Henry Vaupel, R-Fowlerville, rejected amendments offered by Democratic Lawmakers Reps. Marcia Hovey-Wright, D-Muskegon; Alberta Tinsley Talabi, D-Detroit; and Frank Liberati, D-Allen Park. Those amendments would have changed the legislation to require, among other things, adoption agencies to approve adoptions based on the best interests of the children and that agencies follow all federal and state civil rights laws." [Between the Lines Livonia, 3/12/15; Roll Call #243, [6/10/15](#)]

- **WEMU: The legislation would allow “faith-based adoption agencies to refuse to work with LGBT couples or anyone else based on moral or religious grounds”.** “Legislation that would allow faith-based adoption agencies to refuse to work with LGBT couples or anyone else based on moral or religious grounds is headed to the floor of the state House. A state House committee approved the bills as the US Supreme Court prepares to hear arguments on same-sex marriage. The Supreme Court arguments will most likely take place in late April, but state House Republicans aren't waiting to see what the justices decide in the case challenging Michigan's ban on same-sex marriage and the rights that go with marriage -- rights like jointly adopting children.” [WEMU, [3/5/15](#)]
- **Reuters: The legislation, which was signed by Gov. Snyder, was “one of a series of Republican-backed measures at the state level targeting gay couples.”** “Michigan's governor signed legislation on Thursday allowing private adoption agencies to refuse to place children with same-sex couples on religious grounds, one of a series of Republican-backed measures at the state level targeting gay couples. Governor Rick Snyder, a Republican, signed three bills into law a day after Michigan's Republican-controlled Senate approved the measures that had been advanced by the state House of Representatives. The American Civil Liberties Union said it plans to file a court challenge to the new laws. The action comes as the U.S. Supreme Court prepares to issue a ruling by the end of this month on whether same-sex marriage will be legalized nationwide.” [Reuters, [6/11/15](#)]

2011: Forlini voted in favor of legislation banning domestic partner benefits for state employees. The bill was signed into law by Gov. Snyder. “Gov. Rick Snyder [signed](#) legislation Thursday banning domestic partner benefits for state employees. Snyder, however, vetoed a portion of the legislation that would have affected public university employees. A 2004 amendment to the state Constitution prohibits marriage for same-sex couples in Michigan. Until now, state employees enjoyed domestic partner benefits only since January of this year. Three local school districts, and five city and county governments, including the City of Detroit, also provide domestic partner benefits for public employees.” [HuffPost, [12/22/11](#); HB 4770, Roll Call #531, [12/8/11](#)]

- **The Ann Arbor News: “The move is a blow to gay and lesbian activists throughout the state.”** “It is unclear whether the bill applies to state universities, although Snyder asserts that it does not. House Republicans, meanwhile, say it does apply to university employees. The move is a blow to gay and lesbian activists throughout the state.” [The Ann Arbor News, [12/22/11](#)]

- **PrideSource: HB 4770 “targeted gay and lesbian families by stripping away health care coverage for domestic partners of public employees.”** “In response to Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder’s recent signing of House Bill 4770, Equality Michigan Pride PAC has launched an ad campaign encouraging voters to ‘talk back to Rick.’ Snyder signed HB 4770 in December and targeted gay and lesbian families by stripping away health care coverage for domestic partners of public employees. The campaign, at <http://www.talkbacktorick.com>, asks Michigan families to sign an open letter to the Governor and donate to help buy airtime for the radio ad campaign.” [PrideSource, [2/2/12](#)]

2016: Forlini criticized transgender bathroom sign in the state Capitol. Forlini claimed the sign was offensive and singled out transgender individuals. “In Lansing’s Anderson House Office Building, the workplace of most state representatives, a new bathroom sign including a third stick figure that combines the traditional images of a man in pants and a woman in a skirt has angered some lawmakers. Rep. Anthony Forlini, R-Harrison Twp., said he found the new bathroom sign offensive, as it singles out transgender individuals, according to a recent report in MIRS, a governmental news organization. In a recent Facebook post, Forlini tied the new sign to the policies released by the Department of Education. DiSessa says that the department’s guidelines have nothing to do with the signs in the legislative office building.” [Spartan Newsroom, [4/1/16](#)]

- **Forlini: “I don’t understand why we need to make statements suggesting that God made a person with a half dress... I believe we should be respectful to one another, but images like this are divisive and create anger. It puts politics in front of peoples freedoms.”** “Rep. Anthony Forlini, R-Harrison Township, posted a picture of the restrooms on Facebook. ‘I don’t understand why we need to make statements suggesting that God made a person with a half dress,’ Forlini wrote. ‘...I believe we should be respectful to one another, but images like this are divisive and create anger. It puts politics in front of peoples freedoms.’” [MLive, [4/1/16](#)]

CHOICE

2013: As a state legislator, Forlini voted in favor of an initiative to prohibit health insurers from covering abortions. The measure contained no exceptions for rape or incest. “The Republican-controlled Legislature on Wednesday approved a voter-initiated law that would prohibit basic health insurance plans from covering abortions and avoid a veto by Gov. Rick Snyder. The Senate voted 27-11 and the House passed the legislation 62-47 mostly along party lines in favor of Right to Life of Michigan’s proposal to require women to purchase additional insurance for abortions. The law contains no exceptions for coverage of pregnancies caused by rape or incest and will go into effect 90 days after the Legislature adjourns for the year... likely in mid-March. The new law will apply to publicly funded health plans and those covering employees of private businesses. Mostly Republican supporters defended the legislation as a measure that protects taxpayers from subsidizing the abortions of other people.” [The Detroit News, 12/11/13 (archived); Roll Call #484, [12/11/13](#)]

- **MLive: Under the plan, women would have to purchase coverage through a separate rider.** “After a week of speculation over the timing of a potential vote, it played out almost exactly as Right to Life of Michigan had predicted: The state Legislature on Wednesday approved controversial legislation that will prohibit insurers from paying for most abortions unless a woman has already purchased coverage through a separate rider. In the House, all 59 Republicans voted for the ‘citizen-initiated’ bill, along with two Democrats and the chamber’s lone independent.” [MLive, [12/12/13](#)]

2012: Forlini voted in favor of a bill that would require abortion providers to meet additional insurance and licensing requirements. Abortion rights groups said the measure would force some clinics to close as a result of the higher fees. “The Michigan House on Wednesday approved broad legislation that would add regulations and restrictions to abortion practices in the state, the first major step of an emotional debate expected to last into the fall. The House passed the main bill in a three-bill package by a 70-39 vote. Two more bills in the package are awaiting votes, although they are not expected to be taken up this week. The Senate is not expected to take up the bills until September. The bill approved Wednesday would add insurance and licensing requirements that pro-abortion rights groups say would close some clinics and result in higher fees at others. Some physicians performing abortions would be required to carry \$1 million in liability insurance, if they have lost multiple civil lawsuits. Anti-abortion groups say those measures would make sure that clinics have health standards that will help protect women.” [MLive, [6/13/12](#); HB 5711 (Roll Call #228), [6/13/12](#)]

- **MLive: “The bill also would enact screening requirements aimed at making sure women aren’t forced into having abortions, among other provisions.” Critics said the goal of the bill was to make it more difficult and more expensive to get an abortion.** “A bill that would add regulatory and possibly some insurance requirements for some facilities that perform abortions was expected to be taken up in the Senate before the 2011-12 session ends. The bill also would enact screening requirements aimed at making sure women aren’t forced into having abortions, among other provisions. Critics say they think the goal of House Bill 5711 is to make abortions more difficult to get and more expensive by forcing some abortion providers out of business. Supporters of the measure say it seeks to improve safety for women. There also are other abortion-related bills moving through the Legislature.” [MLive, [12/10/12](#)]
- **Associated Press: Opponents denounced the bill, which was signed into law by Gov. Snyder, as a “backdoor assault on the right to terminate pregnancy... Critics contend the new regulations on clinics could force some of them to shut down.”** “Gov. Rick Snyder has signed into law abortion regulations supporters say protect women but opponents denounce as a backdoor assault on the right to terminate pregnancy. Critics contend the new regulations on clinics could force some of them to shut down. The Republican governor who has said he opposes abortion signed the contentious measures Friday that passed the Legislature this month. It requires facilities where at least 120 abortions are performed annually to obtain a state license as a freestanding outpatient surgical facility. Patients would have to undergo counseling with a health professional to make sure they aren’t being forced to get an abortion.” [Associated Press, [12/28/12](#)]

2011: Forlini sponsored and voted in favor of bill banning “partial-birth” abortions. “Legislation banning the procedure commonly referred to as partial-birth abortion was signed into law by the governor on Tuesday. The legislation, which was overwhelmingly approved by a veto-proof majority of bipartisan lawmakers, mirrors a 2003 federal ban on the procedure that was upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court in 2007. ‘The people of Michigan have repeatedly spoken on this issue and this legislation reaffirms the value of human life. It also brings Michigan in line with federal law,’ Snyder said. ‘I want to thank state Sen. Arlan Meekhof and state Rep. Ben Glardon for their leadership on this issue.’ Although Congress banned the procedure nearly a decade ago, previous attempts to approve a similar law in Michigan were less successful. [...] House Bill 4110, sponsored by state Rep. Ben Glardon, makes performing a partial-birth abortion or assisting in the procedure a felony punishable by up to two years imprisonment or a \$50,000 fine. A woman who undergoes the procedure would not face criminal

charges under this law. S.B. 160 and H.B. 4110 are now Public Acts 168 and 169 of 2011.” [Press release, Governor Rick Snyder, [10/12/11](#); HB 4110 (Roll Call #342), [9/21/11](#)]