



# LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

MICHIGAN

*EDUCATING AND ADVOCATING FOR RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT*

December 13, 2013

Dear Governor Snyder:

The League of Women Voters of Michigan urges you to veto SB 661, the bill that would prohibit the Secretary of State from issuing rules to require the disclosure of donors for “issue” campaigns. This bill prohibits the public from knowing which individuals, organizations or other entities are paying for the “issue” ads.

LWVMI was very pleased when on November 14, Secretary of State Ruth Johnson announced she would require public disclosure of who pays for political “issue ads.” SB 661 would prohibit her from doing that.

The League of Women Voters supports methods of financing political campaigns that ensure the public's right to know, combat corruption and undue influence, enable candidates to compete more equitably for public office and allow maximum citizen participation in the political process. “Issue” ads are a growing part of political campaigns and the public has a right to know who is paying for them. Transparency is necessary.

As you stated in your series of reform proposals “#3 Fix Michigan’s Broken Government” on page 5 “All electioneering communications – broadcast, printed, and telephonic – that feature the name or image of a candidate for public office or ballot initiative should be considered expenditures subject to the appropriate disclosure requirements.”

We urge you to oppose SB 661 and support Secretary of State Ruth Johnson’s proposal to support the public’s right to information so they can make informed decisions. “Issue” ads are a growing part of political campaigns and the public has a right to know who is paying for them. Transparency is necessary.

Sincerely,

Susan K Smith  
President