



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

MICHIGAN

EDUCATING AND ADVOCATING FOR RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT

December 17, 2012

Governor Rick Snyder
P.O. Box 30013
Lansing, Michigan 48909

Dear Governor Snyder:

On behalf of the League of Women Voters of Michigan, I am writing to ask you to veto legislation that threatens one of our most fundamental rights – the right to vote. The League is especially concerned about two last minute changes added to SB 810: (1) requiring an affirmation of citizenship when you vote and (2) expanding the photo ID requirement to include absentee voting at the clerk's office.

We continue to oppose requiring voters signing an affirmation of citizenship when they sign their ballot application because it is unnecessary. Voters already affirm their citizenship, under penalty of perjury, when they register to vote. This unnecessary requirement confuses and intimidates certain parts of the voting population.

Expanding the photo ID requirement to include absentee voting at the clerk's office is confusing (as you pointed out when you vetoed this requirement last July) and it creates two classes of absentee voters since one can vote absentee by mail without ever showing an ID. In addition, while voters at the polls who don't have an ID can sign an affidavit, those voting absentee at the clerk's office who don't have an ID may sign an affidavit, but their vote becomes a "challenged" ballot.

The right to vote, along with full and fair representation, is the most basic of political rights. Measures that restrict the exercise of that right should be carefully evaluated for their benefit to election integrity. This bill fails that test.

LWVMI urges you to veto this legislation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan Kay Smith". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Susan Smith, President
League of Women Voters of Michigan