



STATE OF MICHIGAN
EXECUTIVE OFFICE
LANSING

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

BRIAN CALLEY
LT. GOVERNOR

July 3, 2012

Michigan House of Representatives
State Capitol Building
Lansing, Michigan 48913

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Today I am returning to you Enrolled House Bill 5061 without signature. Enrolled House Bill 5061 requires a clerk to issue an absent voter ballot to a person who did not check the citizenship box on the absentee application but not count the ballot unless he or she answers the citizenship question before the polls close on election day. I am concerned that enrolled House Bill 5061 could create voter confusion among absentee voters.

I appreciate the Secretary of State's efforts to ensure that voters are properly qualified, including the requirement that they are US citizens. Her efforts in ensuring voter participation are well known and applauded. An alternative would be to simply include US citizen in the voter's opening declarative statement on the application.

Voting rights are precious and we need to work especially hard to make it possible for people to vote. I look forward to working with you and the Secretary of State to address the issues above so we can implement improvements to our system.

Sincerely,

Rick Snyder
Governor