



STATE OF MICHIGAN
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
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LT. GOVERNOR

October 15, 2021

Michigan Senate
State Capitol Building
Lansing, MI 48909-7536

SENATE ENROLLING
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Senators,

Today I am returning two election-related bills to you without approval.

Every citizen of Michigan has the constitutionally-guaranteed right to vote and deserves to exercise that right in safe and secure elections.

Enrolled Senate Bills 277 and 280 are the latest in a series of election bills arriving on my desk that fail to advance those goals. Instead, these bills would divert key resources away from ensuring that every qualified Michigan resident can cast a secure ballot in our elections. SB 277 in particular disregards the state's successful process for maintaining the Qualified Voter File by adding burdensome requirements that would distract from core election administration responsibilities.

Nevertheless, I would be proud to sign common sense election reforms that would strengthen our democracy, including bills:

- improving military families access to the ballot by allowing active-duty Michiganders and spouses serving overseas to vote electronically,
- removing barriers to voting absentee by establishing a permanent absent voter list, and,
- expediting election returns by allowing sufficient time for preprocessing of absentee ballots.

I would also be willing to sign targeted legislation that allows county clerks to flag deceased voters based on death records in the fifteen days prior to an election – the only time period where Social Security records may be insufficient to timely update the Qualified Voter File based on recent deaths.

As always, I stand ready to join hands with anyone who shares these important goals.

Sincerely,

Gretchen Whitmer
Governor