

My name is Dr Rebecca Behrends. As mentioned in previous testimony I have given, I am a retired emergency medicine physician and a member of the Election Integrity Committee of the Oakland County Republican Party.

I wish to address issues pertaining to HB 4837 and 4839.

HB 4837

This bill would prohibit third party access to the QVF. We understand that the organization, Rock the Vote, created an application program interface to route registration of persons to the Michigan online voter registration- not directly to the QVF. The SOS was then responsible for verifying this registration info and then adding it as appropriate to the QVF. My concern is what criteria are being followed for determining verification and eligibility? Government issued photo ID? Proof of US citizenship? Michigan has a top down, centralized registration system. Even if organizations do not have access to the QVF, where is the transparency from the SOS for the public or the legislature to ensure that registration criteria are being adhered to? It would be reassuring to know this regardless if the SOS is a democrat or republican.

Pew Research from 2018 shows that nationwide, most voters favor requiring photo ID.

We would like to amend this bill to provide for purging a voter from the inactive voter file if the elector does not vote for 6 consecutive years. It is well known that registration rolls across the nation are inaccurate and lack ongoing updating. Secretary of State Benson, as noted in a Detroit News article in Sept 2020, stated that 500,000 persons could be removed from the rolls.(1) Then, after the election, under pressure from a lawsuit, she removed 177,000 names. What happened to the rest? Why weren't they removed? List maintenance is an enfranchising practice. One ineligible or fraudulent vote steals a vote from a legal, legitimate voter. The Public Interest Legal Foundation in Sept 2020 found that the Michigan was one of 5 states that accounted for about 51% of dead voters who are still mistakenly registered.

Recent news showed that 20% of registered voters in East Lansing are no longer there. (2)

The National Voter Registration Act of 1993 mandates voter roll maintenance. How is it voter suppression to require that our state step up and follow the law?

HB 4839

This bill would require that an absent voter application form be provided for by the SOS. I have spoken to Clerks from three different townships. They all say that it is a mess to receive absentee ballot applications from a variety of different sources. It is more work for them. They feel that forms should be standardized and have an embossed seal on watermarked paper. Also, this bill provides for a requirement of applying annually for an AV ballot application rather than having a permanent AV list. We believe that the application should be provided **only** upon the request of the voter and not indiscriminately sent to everyone. We would also like to see an amendment requiring a wet, verified signature on the AB. In addition, why is it, that if I walk in to vote, I need to show a photo ID but none is required for an absentee ballot voter? It should be the same. It would be interesting to know if absentee ballots had been sent to any of the 177,000 persons that were purged from the rolls early this year. The bipartisan Carter-Baker commission acknowledged that "Absentee ballots remain the largest source of potential voter fraud." (3) It is time to stop flooding the voting public with them.

Footnotes:

(1). [Michigan Removed 177,000 Voters from Voter Rolls in ...](#)

<https://www.thegatewaypundit.com/2021/02/michigan-removed-177000-voters-voter-rolls-january-certifying-biden-won-michigan-154000-votes-november/>

(2). <https://eastlansinginfo.news/close-look-at-east-lansing-shows-about-20-of-registered-voters-are-no-longer-here/>

(3). [Carter-Baker election commission report \[CFER\] - JURIST ...](#)

<https://www.jurist.org/news/2005/09/carter-baker-election-commission/>

Testimony Submitted on Tuesday, May 18, 2021, to the Michigan House Election and Ethics Committee by Dr. Rebecca Behrends, Chair of Election Process Subcommittee for the Election Integrity Committee of the Oakland County Republican Party. Contact: musicreb@gmail.com or 248-520-9192.