

Eddie Sleeper

From: rickbriand@ymail.com
Sent: Wednesday, October 11, 2023 10:37 AM
To: Eddie Sleeper
Subject: Fwd: Subject: Urgent Appeal to Safeguard the Sanctity of Our Electoral Process Regarding HB 4981

Good morning Mr. Sleeper. Please add this email message to the Elections Committees Official record. Thank you.

From: rickbriand@ymail.com
Date: October 9, 2023 at 9:38:17 PM EDT
To: abrahamaiyash@house.mi.gov, GregAlexander@house.mi.gov, JoeyAndrews@house.mi.gov, JosephAragona@house.mi.gov, NoahArbit@house.mi.gov, AndrewBeeler@house.mi.gov, BrianBeGole@house.mi.gov, TimothyBeson@house.mi.gov, robertbezotte@house.mi.gov, MatthewBierlein@house.mi.gov, AnnBollin@house.mi.gov, KenBorton@house.mi.gov, FeliciaBrabec@house.mi.gov, kellybreen@house.mi.gov, JulieBrixie@house.mi.gov, WilliamBruck@house.mi.gov, ErinByrnes@house.mi.gov, SteveCarra@house.mi.gov, BrendaCarter@house.mi.gov, TyroneCarter@house.mi.gov, CamCavitt@house.mi.gov, JaimeChurches@house.mi.gov, BetsyCoffia@house.mi.gov, KevinColeman@house.mi.gov, JenniferConlin@house.mi.gov, NancyDeBoer@house.mi.gov, JayDeBoyer@house.mi.gov, JamesDeSana@house.mi.gov, EmilyDievendorf@house.mi.gov, KimberlyEdwards@house.mi.gov, AlabasFarhat@house.mi.gov, GrahamFiller@house.mi.gov, AndrewFink@house.mi.gov, JohnFitzgerald@house.mi.gov, JosephFox@house.mi.gov, NeilFriske@house.mi.gov, caglanville@house.mi.gov, KristianGrant@house.mi.gov, RepPhilGreen@house.mi.gov, JaimeGreene@house.mi.gov, JaimeGreene@house.mi.gov, MattHall@house.mi.gov, mikeharris@house.mi.gov, JennHill@house.mi.gov, MikeHoadley@house.mi.gov, RachelHood@house.mi.gov, KaraHope@house.mi.gov, JasonHoskins@house.mi.gov, GinaJohnsen@house.mi.gov, MattKoleszar@house.mi.gov, TomKuhn@house.mi.gov, TomKunse@house.mi.gov, tullioliberati@house.mi.gov, SarahLightner@house.mi.gov, SharonMacDonell@house.mi.gov, MattMaddock@house.mi.gov, GregMarkkanen@house.mi.gov, davidmartin@house.mi.gov, JasperMartus@house.mi.gov, MikeMcFall@house.mi.gov, DonovanMcKinney@house.mi.gov, lukemeerman@house.mi.gov, DeniseMentzer@house.mi.gov, ReggieMiller@house.mi.gov, JasonMorgan@house.mi.gov, ChristineMorse@house.mi.gov, mikemueller@house.mi.gov, cynthianeeley@house.mi.gov, JerryNeyer@house.mi.gov, AmosOneal@house.mi.gov, PatOutman@house.mi.gov, VeronicaPaiz@house.mi.gov, bradpaquette@house.mi.gov, lauriepohutsky@house.mi.gov, BryanPosthumus@house.mi.gov, DavePrestin@house.mi.gov, NataliePrice@house.mi.gov, ranjeevpuri@house.mi.gov, CarrieRheingans@house.mi.gov, AngelaRigas@house.mi.gov, JulieRogers@house.mi.gov, JohnRoth@house.mi.gov, KathySchmaltz@house.mi.gov, JoshSchriver@house.mi.gov, BillSchuette@house.mi.gov, helenascott@house.mi.gov, nateshannon@house.mi.gov, PhilSkaggs@house.mi.gov, BradleySlagh@house.mi.gov, RacheleSmit@house.mi.gov, WillSnyder@house.mi.gov, AliciaStGermaine@house.mi.gov, samanthasteckloff@house.mi.gov, DonniSteele@house.mi.gov, LoriStone@house.mi.gov, JoeTate@house.mi.gov, JamieThompson@house.mi.gov, marktisdell@house.mi.gov, PenelopeTsernoglou@house.mi.gov, CurtisVanderWall@house.mi.gov, GregVanWoerkom@house.mi.gov, DylanWegela@house.mi.gov, PaulineWendzel@house.mi.gov, KarenWhitsett@house.mi.gov, JimmieWilson@house.mi.gov, AngelaWitwer@house.mi.gov, DouglasWozniak@house.mi.gov, stephanieyoung@house.mi.gov,

DaleZorn@house.mi.gov

Subject: Subject: Urgent Appeal to Safeguard the Sanctity of Our Electoral Process Regarding HB 4981

Dear Honorable Michigan Legislators,

I am writing this notice with profound respect for your role as guardians of our democratic values and the principles enshrined in the Constitution. This matter concerns not only myself at present but also future candidates statewide for generations to come. I implore you to consider the gravity of House Bill 4981, an ominous specter that threatens the very foundation of our electoral system and erodes the trust of Michigan's discerning voters.

This legislative proposal, House Bill 4981, presents itself as a disconcerting affront to the sanctity of our electoral process. It diminishes the diverse tapestry of candidates who should rightfully stand before our electorate, doing a disservice to the intelligence of every Michigan voter.

My purpose in writing today extends beyond mere concern; it is driven by the inescapable realization that the introduction and consideration of this Bill inflict irreparable harm upon my campaign for the Sheriff's Office in Berrien County as well as the civil rights of myself and the people of Michigan. I humbly submit that this discriminatory Bill must not merely be criticized but vehemently disavowed and dismissed in a public forum.

Drawing upon my profound familiarity with history, law, and politics, I must express my deep offense and profound insult at the prospect of Bill 4981 becoming law. It transgresses the very essence of our electoral process as envisioned under Act 166 of 1954. This is nothing short of a brazen attempt to "abuse the elective franchise" and stands as a noxious threat to the purity of our election laws.

The Great State of Michigan has long held the position of Sheriff in the highest regard, even before the advent of modern police forces. Esteemed individuals, steeped in honor and integrity, have worn the badge of the Sheriff for centuries. Never before has there been cause to impose rigid qualifications for this elected office, nor should there ever be. To suggest such qualifications is to offend the democratic soul of our republic and the cherished process by which we select our public servants. The Sheriff must forever remain the people's peacekeeper, resolute in their allegiance to the community, free from the constraints of state, county, or city servitude.

The legislators responsible for the introduction and sponsorship of this lamentable bill must reckon with their role in undermining our democracy. Their failure to comprehend the profound implications of this legislation is a disservice to the very tenets of law, the Constitution, the legislative process, and our electoral system. Bill 4981 risks disenfranchising countless potential candidates, casting the Office of the Sheriff into disrepute, and betraying the framers' intent.

I beseech you, honorable legislators, to acknowledge these pressing and undeniable issues that Bill 4981 presents. In the name of your solemn duty to the electorate and your sacred oath to protect and defend the Constitution, I implore you to oppose this Bill with unwavering resolve. I further entreat that you not only dismiss this legislation but also take action to safeguard against any future attempts to limit the Office of Sheriff to a select few.

With the utmost respect and in the spirit of democratic integrity, I eagerly await your response.

Rick Briand

Current and Former Candidate for Berrien County Sheriff
Niles, Michigan