



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

MICHIGAN

EDUCATING AND ADVOCATING FOR RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT

March 15, 2018

Members of the House Elections and Ethics Committee

The League of Women Voters of Michigan supports HBs 5548 and HB 5549, the bills to develop and maintain an electronic voter registration interface to allow an applicant to submit a voter registration application electronically through the SOS website. Eligible voters would have to have a valid Michigan driver's license or a state ID card to register to vote online. Of course, the current paper registration process would also continue to be used.

38 states plus the District of Columbia offer online registration. Online voter registration systems supplement the traditional process. A validation step is done by comparing the information on the online registration form against the information provided by the same individual when he or she received a driver's license or other state-issued identification card. The signature already on record with the state becomes the signature on record for voting. When the information does not match, the application is sent to officials for further review or action.

In states where online registration has been implemented the cost of processing new voter registrations has been reduced. Online voter registration also increases accuracy since the information does not have to be manually re-entered.

This is an important reform to increase the number of registered voters in Michigan. We urge you to support this legislation.

Sincerely,

Judy Karandjeff
President