

Testimony of Rep. Andrew Fink in support of HB 4491, 3/23/21

Good Afternoon,

I'm here today to speak in support of HB 4491 which will allow county clerks to remove deceased individuals from the qualified voter file. Regardless of wherever we fall on the political spectrum, election integrity must be a bi-partisan issue, and House Bill 4491 is a way to assure Michiganians that all legally cast votes are counted accurately.

Under our state's current election laws, the county clerk compiles lists of deceased voters, and forwards the list to the township or city clerk, who then bears the responsibility of striking deceased individuals from the qualified voter file. House Bill 4491 is a common-sense solution to allow a broader and more efficient approach in maintaining the integrity of our state's qualified voter file by allowing county clerks to remove deceased individuals from the qualified voter file, reducing the pressure on local clerks and allowing maximum efficiency in maintaining an updated QVF.

It is important to remember that election season is an incredibly busy time for local clerks, and the increase in numbers of those registering to vote and applying to vote near an election means that the county clerk helping keep the rolls updated in a timely manner is all the more critical. Local clerks currently stand alone with this responsibility, while they are also required to manage the rest of the election process.