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DARYL NEWMAN
Secretary-Treasurer

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Dear State Representative,

I am writing to express my serious concerns about Senate Bill 13, which would eliminate straight-party voting in Michigan.

Straight-party voting has been a part of the democratic process in Michigan for more than a century. Our state already has one of the longest ballots in the country, and getting rid of straight-party voting will only make the process of voting harder and more confusing. It will mean even longer lines at the polls on Election Day, and will cost taxpayers more by requiring clerks to hire additional poll workers.

Instead of encouraging more people to vote, repealing straight-party voting will mean even fewer people will cast ballots in crucial state, local, and nonpartisan races. It will be especially harmful in communities with more minority, low-income, and senior voters.

This legislation will hurt Republicans and Democrats alike. Consider the fact that Oakland County Rep. Klint Kesto, R-Commerce Twp., received 51 percent of his votes from straight-party ballots in 2014, compared to his Democratic opponent, who only received 43 percent of his votes from straight-party tickets.

Michigan should be working to make voting easier, not harder.

We respectfully encourage you to vote NO on SB 13.

Sincerely,

Ron Bieber
President

