

ELECTIONS UPDATE 2020

Dear Friends,

During this important election year, I wanted to give you an **update on my work as Chair of the Senate Elections Committee to protect the safety and security of Michigan's elections.**

I am very concerned by recent actions of the secretary of state and their potential impact on the integrity of our elections. **My committee continues to investigate the unsolicited, statewide mass mailing of absentee ballot applications by the secretary of state earlier this year.** We have already received hundreds of examples of applications sent to individuals who are dead, moved to other states, are noncitizens, or not of legal voting age.

We will continue to hold the secretary of state accountable for this and other actions that threaten the sanctity of our elections. Our committee plays an important oversight role and **we have heard other serious concerns about the secretary of state's conduct from many local and county clerks who are directly responsible for conducting our elections.**

The Senate Elections Committee recently **reported Senate Bills 977 and 978, which would make it a felony** for someone to knowingly submit another person's name or personal identity information on an absentee ballot application or **to knowingly submit an absent voter ballot application with the intent to attempt to obtain multiple ballots.** These bills were passed by the Senate on June 25.

My legislation, Senate Bill 117, to help our military men and women serving overseas to vote securely was recently approved by the House Elections Committee after passing the Senate late last year. This bill would make it easier for service members on active duty out of the country to return their ballots electronically using the same technology the military uses to transmit classified information.

As always, please feel free to contact my office with your thoughts and concerns, or if we can ever be of assistance with any state related issues or departments.

All the best,



STATE SENATOR

**RUTH
JOHNSON**



SENATE DISTRICT 14



TOLL-FREE 855.347.8014



E-MAIL senjohnson@senate.michigan.gov

VISIT www.SenatorRuthJohnson.com