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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

October 4, 2011

The Honorable Tom Corbett
Governor of Pennsylvania
225 Main Capitol
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Governor Corbett:

Secretary of the Commonwealth Aichele, speaking several weeks ago to the 2011 Pennsylvania County Election Officials Conference in Lancaster, suggested that requiring voters to provide photo identification will make it harder to commit voter impersonation fraud in Pennsylvania.

In expressing support for requiring voter identification legislation on behalf of your administration, Secretary Aichele said "My duty, and yours, is to protect the integrity of every vote. We must insure every citizen entitled to vote can do so, but also prevent anyone not entitled to this right from diluting legal voters' ballots, by casting illegal votes."

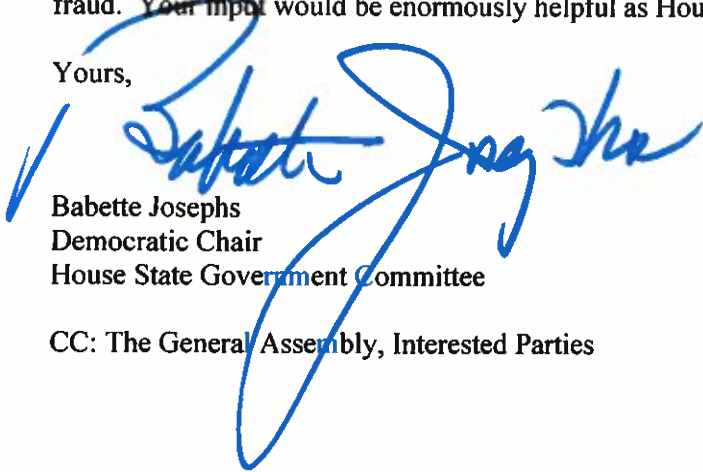
I am squarely against fraud, but when the County Commissioner Association of Pennsylvania (CCAP), an organization of the public officials who administer elections submitted written testimony on House Bill 934, a bill that would require photo identification it was in clear opposition. CCAP said, "Were the question of fraudulent voting an issue, we would be calling for legislation such as these proposals, and perhaps other measures, to deal with the problem. **But we find no evidence—substantiated by a search of case records and anecdotal information from the counties that it is an issue.** And so we believe a requirement to present ID at all elections is a solution to a problem that does not exist."

At a March 21, 2011 public hearing on this bill, wild accusations of massive voter impersonation fraud were alleged by a witness who emphasized that she was speaking on her own behalf rather than the organization upon whose stationery her testimony was printed. Subsequent contact with the United State Department of Justice and the Allegheny County District Attorney's Office has led me to believe that this witness lacks credibility. I would be happy to produce the correspondence between the Allegheny County DA and myself. To date, I have not heard back from the current Pennsylvania Attorney General.

Since a law to require voter identification could cost Pennsylvania taxpayers more than \$10 million annually to implement and will potentially disenfranchise thousands of law-abiding Pennsylvanians, I write to ask you the same questions I have asked other prosecutors: How many cases of voter impersonation fraud that could have been prevented by requiring photo identifications at all elections came before you in your years as Pennsylvania's Attorney General? Specifically, I would like to know the number of complaints, investigations, prosecutions and convictions of voter impersonation fraud during your service in that office. Certainly, if you know of fraud, it is important that lawmakers know about it.

Members of the House State Government Committee have been given scant evidence of any such fraud. Your input would be enormously helpful as House Bill 934 moves forward.

Yours,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Babette Josephs". The signature is written over the typed name and title.

Babette Josephs
Democratic Chair
House State Government Committee

CC: The General Assembly, Interested Parties