



# STATE OF MINNESOTA

## Office of Governor Tim Pawlenty

130 State Capitol ♦ 75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard ♦ Saint Paul, MN 55155

May 22, 2009

The Honorable Senator James Metzen  
President of the Senate  
322 State Capitol Building  
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear President Metzen:

I have vetoed and am returning Senate File 1331, Chapter 162, an omnibus elections bill. This bill makes a number of changes to existing election laws.

Election laws set forth rules relating to the fundamental right to vote and the government's administration of those rights. The details of these laws matter, and the manner in which they are adopted matters as well. Omnibus election bills making changes to our election process should be bipartisan. Unfortunately, this bill fails that test.

I am also opposed to the change in this bill moving the primary from September to August.

This bill included language seeking to clarify the limitations on exit pollsters, which has been the subject of court challenge. Although I have vetoed this bill on other grounds, it is my hope this matter can be resolved when the Legislature returns next session.

Election law reform is needed in Minnesota. My hope is that bipartisan legislation will be passed during next year's legislative session, in time for the 2010 general election.

Sincerely,

Tim Pawlenty  
Governor

President Metzen/SF 1331

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cc: Representative Margaret Anderson Kelliher, Speaker of the House  
Senator Lawrence J. Pogemiller, Majority Leader  
Senator David Senjem, Minority Leader  
Senator Katie Sieben  
Representative Marty Seifert, Minority Leader  
Representative Ryan Winkler  
Mr. Peter S. Wattson, Secretary of the Senate (Legislative)  
Mr. Albin Mathiowetz, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives  
Mr. Mark Ritchie, Secretary of State