

Alcorn, James (SBE)

From: Richard Baugh [RBAugh@hooverpenrod.com]**Sent:** Wed 7/8/2009 10:51 AM**To:** Alcorn, James (SBE)**Cc:****Subject:****Attachments:**

Mr. Alcorn,

As an attorney and elected official, I will say that I am pleased with the Draft of Residency requirements that I was given to review, and that I understand the State Board of Elections will be considering. Here in Harrisonburg, the obvious controversial issue is college student registration. My sense is that the Draft implicitly recognizes just how difficult it would be to fashion a set of rules requiring students to register elsewhere from where they attend college, or even encouraging them to vote elsewhere. Moreover, it is difficult to see the rationale for treating students differently from anyone else. If I have a job that requires me to live in different places a good part of the year, there has never been any confusion over the fact that I have the right to consider either place my domicile or permanent residence.

Similarly, the Draft affirms a point that one would hope is beyond partisanship. That is that we want to do what we can to ENCOURAGE citizen participation. Obviously, anyone found to have voted in more than one locality or otherwise committed voter fraud should be prosecuted to the full extent of the law. However, paths that purport to make it more difficult to participate, ESPECIALLY when targeted at some citizens rather than others, must be avoided if the system is going to have the integrity it demands. One would hope all reasonable people would agree on this point.

Richard A. Baugh
Vice-Mayor
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