

No straight party voting in November

Citizens won't have the option of voting a straight-party ticket after all when they head to the polls this fall.



After multiple court rulings, judges issued a stay on the recent ruling that struck down the 2015 ban on straight-ticket voting. The U.S. Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals granted Secretary of State Ruth Johnson's request for a stay and to allow the court more time to consider a full appeal, meaning the option will

not be available in the November election.

The original law, Public Act 268 of 2015, ended Michigan's 100-year history of allowing straight-ticket voting. Instead, voters are required to select a candidate for each office individually. However, this summer, the U.S. District Court ruled that PA 268 was discriminatory and violated the Equal Protection Clause of the U.S. Constitution and the U.S. Voting Rights Act.

Johnson then requested a stay on the decision, which was originally denied. However, the U.S. Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals granted the stay, arguing that the original ruling's rationale was weak. The U.S. Supreme Court then rejected an emergency application challenging the ban.