



HOUSE GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY & OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Proponent Testimony on HB 342

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Chairman Blessing, Vice Chair Reineke, Ranking Member Clyde, and Members of the Committee, thank you for holding this hearing and for the opportunity to provide testimony.

My name is Micah Derry and I am the State Director of Americans for Prosperity – Ohio. Americans for Prosperity is the nation’s largest free market advocacy group, with tens of thousands of activists right here in Ohio, I urge you to support HB 342, which would require local votes on proposed property tax increases to take place during primary or general elections.

When local governments call snap special elections at random to ask voters whether they wish to raise their property taxes, it cuts against the principles of transparent and open government, and limits the number of people who are aware and able to participate in this crucial electoral process.

Ohioans know when to expect their primary and general elections to take place, and know they need to identify their local polling place, make arrangements with their employer in order to go to the polls, and make sure their voter registration is up to date for the election. These certainties do not carry over to special elections, which can catch unprepared voters by surprise. Research shows that shifting an election to November of a midterm election year boosts voter turnout [by 8.7 points](#), and shifting an election to a presidential election year increases turnout by 18.5 points.

AFP-Ohio consistently advocates for better stewardship of taxpayer dollars – and that starts with when and how local governments ask their constituents for those tax dollars. Given the common sense nature of this legislation put forth by Representative Merrin, we are marking HB 342 for a key vote on our legislative scorecard and respectfully ask for your favorable consideration of this bill.

Thank you Chairman Blessing, I’m happy to answer any questions they committee may have at this time.

Americans for Prosperity (AFP) exists to recruit, educate, and mobilize citizens in support of the policies and goals of a free society at the local, state, and federal level, helping every American live their dream – especially the least fortunate. AFP has more than 3.2 million activists across the nation, a local infrastructure that includes 36 state chapters, and has received financial support from more than 100,000 Americans in all 50 states. For more information, visit www.AmericansForProsperity.org.