



HOUSE GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY & OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Testimony in Support of SB 21

Gary Lee, Union County Commissioner

Chairman Blessing, Vice-Chair Reineke, Ranking Member Clyde and members of the House Government Accountability and Oversight Committee, I am Union County Commissioner Gary Lee and I am here today on behalf of the County Commissioners Association of Ohio to offer the Association's support for Senator Uecker's SB 21. This legislation would enable a board of elections to reduce the number of poll workers in a polling location under certain circumstances.

Specifically, the bill provides permissive authority for a board to reduce the minimum number of required precinct election officials from four to two if the following applies:

- Electronic poll books are utilized; and
- The polling location includes more than one precinct.

The legislation does not change the bipartisan composition of precinct election officials in code; both major political parties will still have representation among poll workers.

The use of electronic poll books decrease voter wait times, and in multi-precinct voting locations, the technology facilitates a more efficient process. Also, if a voter is at the wrong precinct or voting location, the e-poll book will print out the proper location, while some even generate directions to the proper site, too. The use of the electronic poll book technology allows a precinct to be more efficiently run and requires less poll workers to be present.

The efficiency that has been gained through the use of centralized check-in and e-poll books is bringing us to the point where four poll workers in each precinct in a multi-precinct polling location are no longer needed. Poll workers are the single largest Election Day expense. Recruiting and retaining a sufficient number of qualified and capable poll workers is one of the major challenges facing the boards of elections.

CCAO believes that SB 21 is the next, critical step the legislature can take to help boards of elections with this challenge.

Thank you in advance for your consideration, and I would be happy to answer any questions that you may have.



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