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Sponsor Testimony
State Senator Joseph Uecker
Am. Senate Bill 21
House Government Accountability and Oversight Committee
March 20, 2018

Thank you Chairman Blessing, Vice Chairman Reineke, Ranking Member Clyde, and members of the House Government Accountability and Oversight Committee for the opportunity to speak on behalf of Am. Senate Bill 21.

Am. Senate Bill 21 grants permissive authority for a County Board of Elections to reduce the minimum number of required precinct election officials from four to two in multi precinct locations that use electronic poll books, in any given election if approved by the bipartisan Board of Elections.

It does not change the bipartisan composition of precinct election officials in code; both major political parties will still have equal representation amongst poll workers at each precinct voting location.

The Ohio Revised Code currently requires every Board of Elections to appoint four precinct election officials during each election in every precinct in Ohio. This obligation can be very cumbersome as well as wasteful for smaller counties with fewer available poll workers.

Currently, 83 counties across Ohio use electronic poll books. The efficiencies gained through them warrant a reevaluation of current policy.

Am. Senate Bill 21 received bipartisan support in the Senate. Broad backing was also offered from The Ohio Association of Election Officials. Members from Fulton County to Cuyahoga County (the largest voting jurisdiction in Ohio) shared their support.

Decreasing the amount of poll workers required will increase funds available to give the citizens of Ohio the accurate and efficient elections they expect and deserve. Thank you for your consideration. I am happy to answer any questions.