

Proponent Testimony
HB 364
Ohio Association of Election Officials

Chairwoman Anielski, Vice-Chair Hambley, Ranking Member Holmes and members of the House State and Local Government Committee:

My name is Aaron Ockerman and I am executive director of the Ohio Association of Election Officials (OAEO). OAEO is a bipartisan organization representing Ohio's 88 county boards of elections including both board members and staff.

I am here today to offer our support for HB 364, legislation designating the fourth Tuesday of September as Voter Registration Day in Ohio. As the sponsor mentioned in her testimony, the fourth Tuesday of September is already designated as National Voter Registration Day, so this bill would simply align Ohio's day designation with the national one.

When people think about local boards of elections, they typically associate us with the people that run elections a few times a year. But many people do not realize that we are also charged with maintaining our critical list of registered voters that makes Election Day possible. Indeed, while we only administer elections on specified days, registration is a task we deal with nearly every day each year. It is a responsibility we take very seriously.

Boards of elections utilize National Voter Registration Day in a variety of ways. We partner with schools to inform juniors and seniors about their opportunity to register to vote. We also work collaboratively with local voter organizations such as

local Leagues of Women Voters to raise awareness for those who are not registered to vote in our communities. And we work with the Secretary of State's office on various initiatives to maintain accurate voter rolls. Recently, Ohio joined a multistate collaborative aimed at forging closer ties amongst states to better maintain more precise registration lists. Part of this initiative was to proactively reach out to voters who are eligible to vote, but have not registered.

With the addition of online voter registration, it has never been easier to register to vote in Ohio. HB 364 encourages participation in Ohioans' most sacred civic responsibility and OAEO is proud to support this important legislation.

Chairwoman Anielski, I would be happy to answer any questions the committee might have.