

**Proponent Testimony**  
**Sub House Bill 49**  
**Ohio Association of Election Officials**

Chairman Wiggam, Vice Chair Stephens, Ranking Member Kelly 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 local boards of elections. I would like to offer our association's support for Substitute HB 49.

Let me start by thanking Representative Greenspan for working with OAEO to rework HB 49 to make it more inclusive of various forms of identification that can qualify for the definition of "photo identification" under Ohio's voter ID statutes. As introduced, HB 49 expanded the definition to include concealed carry permits as issued by county sheriffs' offices. After reviewing the bill, we asked Rep. Greenspan to consider expanding the definition to include any county issued ID that otherwise qualifies to be used for voting purposes. Sub HB 49 reflects those agreed upon changes.

The committee has already established through other testimony that concealed carry licenses and other forms of county identification can be used for voting purposes under the "government documents" definition. So, at first blush, Sub HB 49 may seem repetitive. In reality, the bill makes substantive changes to our ID laws. Most notably, if a voter presents a government document, that document must have been issued within the last year in order to be considered valid voter ID. On the other hand, Ohio driver's licenses and state identification cards are considered valid voter ID unless they are expired. Thus, under current law, a concealed carry license or other county ID issued four

years ago could not be used for ID purposes, while under Sub HB 49 it could be.

In addition to being more voter friendly, Sub HB 49 creates consistency and makes the law more easily understandable for our poll workers. Photo identification issued by the federal and state government is already allowed under Ohio law, so extending the definition to include county issued ID just makes sense.

Again, we appreciate the work of the sponsor and the committee and would urge your support. I would be happy to answer any questions the committee might have.