

Submitted by: Mark Sigrist
Date: June 3, 2020

Chair Wiggam, Vice Chair Stephens, Ranking Member Kelly, and members of the House State and Local Government Committee, my name is Mark Sigrist. I am representing myself, a concerned citizen of Grove City, Ohio, and I submit this testimony in strong opposition to HB680.

House Bill 680 just seems to be trying to make our voting experience more clunky and restrictive than it already is. We just saw the pathetic voter turnout in the Spring, when for a variety of reasons, we went to pretty much a mail-in experience only, and over-relied on our Board of Election staff and the United States Postal Service in trying to do so. We were focused on flattening the curve for the pandemic, but we didn't care about trying to flatten the workload curve for the people asked to do this work in such a short period of time. We tried to take a 20-ton truck over a bridge we knew, and it was clearly stated, that it was designed for up to 10 tons. It was no wonder the turn out was low, and ballots made it to their Board of Elections way too late.

In a democracy that was established with a guiding driver of destroying "taxation without representation", why in the world would we try to go back in time by putting things in place to discourage so many people from voting and therefore feeling they are not represented? When we know that 100 million eligible voters in this country, don't vote, why are we doing things to make it more difficult? HB680 is just that. It's just one more obstacle to turn off voters and lose their interest.

With that said, I learned about Senate Bill 191 a few weeks back. It is a diamond in the rough on so many levels. Special kudos to Ohio Senate Member Theresa Gavarone for sponsoring this bill, Secretary of State Bill LaRose, the Ohio Association of Election Officials, and the League of Women Voters for endorsing this as well. This bill is currently in the Senate Government Reform and Oversight Committee. I really appreciated having the chance to talk to Senator Bill Coley on this last week. SB 191 is a simple concept; it allows voters to request an absentee ballot online. We bank online, shop online, communicate online; and in Ohio, we register to vote online. But if a voter wants to request an absentee ballot online, the option simply does not exist. Today we have a cumbersome manual process that can take weeks, is prone to human error, and "kills the will" of so many people willing to engage in an expeditious way. Passing Senate Bill 191 will be an enormous cost savings and efficiency-up to automate this process. It will "flatten the workload curve" to keep up with the unprecedented, expanding voter demand for safe, secure, and accessible elections in November. It will give voters the chance to be one with you, their representatives in helping Governor DeWine reduce costs to achieve a 20% budget reduction.

Please oppose HB680 in its current form and support Senate Bill 191 when it makes its way to the floor.

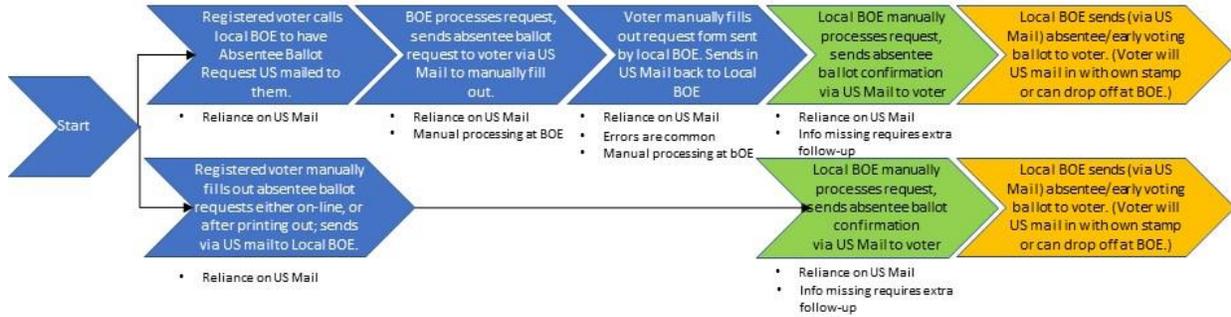
ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUEST AUTOMATION

OHIO SENATE BILL 191 BEFORE/AFTER

CURRENT

2 OPTIONS

BOTH OPTIONS: SLOW, COSTLY AND CUMBERSOME



AFTER APPROVAL OF SB191

ALLOW ABOVE 2 OPTIONS, BUT PROMOTE NEW AUTOMATED METHOD

IMPLEMENT AUTOMATED ON-LINE ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUEST PROCESS



Passing Senate Bill 191 will be an improvement for voter and poll worker health and safety; a reduction in absentee ballot processing costs; and still allow for in-person voting.