



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®



December 12, 2018

Dear Members of the Ohio Senate Committee on Government Oversight and Reform,

This letter is in support of the proposed changes to House Bill 41.

We are supportive of amendment AM3364X3 to change the early voting schedule. While we don't like losing hours the day before an election, we do support additional time on weekends, because we know that many voters will prefer the weekend.

We are sensitive to the needs of local Boards of Elections (BOEs), and we recognize that BOEs could utilize that extra time to ensure smooth operations on election day. This past election in November was like most Ohio election days, in which operations generally ran smoothly, but there were some avoidable snafus at various polling locations around our state. It would be our sincere hope that BOEs would utilize that time to ensure greater security and reliability, expand poll worker training, and prepare polling locations for unexpected challenges like power outages or technology glitches.

We support amendment AM3368 that would allow local BOEs to begin processing uniformed services and overseas absent voting requests 46 days before an election. Given that 45 days before the election typically lands on a Saturday, this small change will allow BOEs to begin sending out absentee applications/ballots on Friday, saving BOEs money and time. We honor the service and sacrifice of Ohioans serving in the military, respect the needs of overseas voters, and are pleased to support a measure that would help localities better serve them.

We are very pleased with amendment AM3582X1 to allow delivery of an absentee ballot to any polling location in a voter's county on election day, rather than only accepting them at a county BOE headquarters. Thousands of Ohioans attempt to deliver their absentee ballots to their polling location on election day, and when they are informed that they must deliver their ballots to another location, they elect to vote provisionally instead. This simple change will reduce voter confusion and provisional voting. Election Officials can easily transport those ballots back to the County Board of Elections that evening when they are transferring other materials.