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| image001Joe Uecker **14th District** | **Committees**  Local Government, Public Safety & Veterans Affairs – Chair  JCARR – Vice Chair  Transportation, Commerce and Workforce - Vice Chair  Government Oversight & Reform  Agriculture & Natural Resources  General Government & Agency Review  Ohio Legislative Sportsmen’s Caucus – Co Chair  **Ohio Senate**  Senate Building  Room 226, Second Floor  Columbus, Ohio 43215  (614) 466-8082  Uecker@ohiosenate.gov |  |

**Sponsor Testimony**

**State Senator Joe Uecker**

**Am. Senate Bill 22**

**House State and Local Government Committee**

**April 3, 2019**

Thank you Chairman Wiggam, Vice Chair Ginter, Ranking Member Kelly, and members of the State and Local Government Committee for the opportunity to speak on behalf of Am. Senate Bill 22.

Senate Bill 22 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 (ebooks), in any given election if approved by a majority of the Board of Elections officials. 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.

Ebooks are revolutionizing voting in precincts across Ohio. When I began working on this issue four years ago only 21 counties used them. Now they are being utilized by nearly every county in Ohio. They eliminate reliance on traditional paper poll books creating a better and more efficient experience for voters and poll workers.

In multi precinct voting locations ebooks decrease voter wait times and create a more efficient and accurate voting process by allowing voters to check in at any poll book. If a voter is at the wrong precinct or voting location, the ebook will print out the proper location, some generate directions to the proper site as well. Ebooks update poll workers on revised voting procedures quickly and eliminate hours spent manually updating paper poll books.

Most importantly, ebooks create significant cost savings for local governments in printing and labor costs.

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 for smaller counties with fewer poll workers. The efficiencies gained through electronic poll books warrant a reevaluation of current policy. Decreasing the amount of poll workers necessary will reduce overhead costs and increase funds available to give the citizens of Ohio the accurate and efficient elections they expect and deserve.

Senate Bill 22 received unanimous support in the Senate. It’s a common sense initiative that will save taxpayer dollars while producing more organized elections.

Thank you for your consideration. I am happy to answer any questions.