

Opposition Testimony
House Bill 294: OHIO ELECTION SECURITY, MODERNIZATION ACT
House Government Oversight Committee
David Guran
December 1, 2022

Chairman Wilkin, Vice Chair White, Ranking Member Brown, and members of the Government Oversight Committee:

I am representing myself as a citizen of the State of Ohio and resident of Akron. However, recently I was elected as one of the Tri-Chairs of the Ohio - Poor Peoples' Campaign, and I am a member of Crooked River Action, a regional Indivisible group that meets in Cuyahoga Falls.

In general HB 294 as written will make it more difficult for people to vote and it eliminates the procedures that direct the work of county Boards of Elections.

Voter Disenfranchisement

The bill eliminates the right of registered voters to use bank statements and utility bills as identification documents. Thus, it makes voting more difficult.

Also, it ends "automated voter registration and verification". Is this not a violation of federal law.

Additionally, it eliminates a state-wide voter registration database.

Elimination of State Legislature prescribe rules and procedures for county Boards of Elections

HB 294 will no longer require BOEs to submit to the Secretary of State an election administration plan.

Also, it eliminates BOE procedures on change of address and change of name.

Additionally, it eliminates the requirement that state agencies must work with the Secretary of State.

It eliminates the procedures to do voting in vehicles.

The elimination of these legislature specified procedures could lead to violations of the Equal Protection clause in the US Constitution.

Finally, I oppose HB 294.