

Testimony on Substitute House Bill 294
House Government Oversight Committee
December 1, 2022

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

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Tony D'Ambrosio. I'm an active voter from current Ohio House District 28 and Ohio Senate District 8. I am strongly opposed to Substitute HB 294.

There are many ways the Ohio General Assembly could find to improve the voting process in Ohio. Substitute HB 294 does little to do so. For many, registration and voting are still overly complicated and laden with too many barriers. Voting should be safe, secure and accessible. This bill is throwing up even more roadblocks.

It eliminates automated voter registration and verification from HB 294, prohibits Secretary of State or Boards of Election from sending unsolicited absentee ballot request forms, prohibits prepaid return postage for absentee ballot requests and absentee ballots, requires citizenship status to be listed on Ohio driver's licenses, eliminates electronic forms of utility bills, bank statements, and government checks as supplemental identification from HB 294, eliminates the last day of early voting, shortens the absentee ballot request window by 4 days for mail-in requests, and by 7 days for online requests, shortens grace period for Boards to accept ballots that were postmarked on time but delivered by mail after Election Day, from 10 days to 7 days (including ballots from overseas and military voters), limits county Boards of Election to 3 drop boxes only at the county board office, eliminates curbside voting provisions from HB 294, Grandchildren continue to be excluded from being able to drop off absentee ballots, creates new criminal penalties for unauthorized ballot returns and makes it more difficult for voters to propose an alternative form of county government (e.g., county charter).

Don't make it harder for eligible Ohioans to register and vote. Ohio continues to have successful elections with next to no fraudulent activity. Rather than creating easier paths to registration and voting this bill provides further hindrances.

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote NO on this bill. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.