

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

We all value our rights to vote and having a fair and transparent process. There are a few good things about HB 294 ie BOEs publish Electronic Administration Plans, purchase of electronic poll books and permitting 17 year olds to work at the polls.

This bill however, makes elections unnecessarily more complicated, expensive, and inefficient for Boards of Elections (BOEs) and voters.

As for VOTER REGISTRATION, I am disappointed that the updated legislation has removed Automated Voter Registration (AVR). AVR uses readily available information to electronically update voter registration, thereby streamlining the process of updating the voter registration rolls.

As for ABSENTEE VOTING; voting for many Ohioans including senior citizens, voters with disabilities, college students, and those who travel for work rely on absentee voting to have their voices heard. Absentee voting makes our electoral process more resilient during

I strongly support online absentee requests, but the overall impact of this bill will be negative for absentee voters.

As for DROP BOXES, I am very concerned that the sub-bill still leaves inadequate access to drop boxes. Drop boxes are not only more secure than using the postal service, but they are also a more efficient and direct method of submitting voter registration forms, absentee ballots, and campaign finance filings. They can be made secure in more than one location per county.

As for EARLY VOTING, If you've volunteered at the polls,, you'd know that early voting reduces lines on Election Day and expands the time it takes to identify and correct glitches or errors in the system.

Codifying the Early Voting schedule into statute and keeping early voting on the last Monday before the Election is an imperative.

*I ask you to reject this legislation, which would harm access to the ballot and could limit voter participation among active duty military, senior citizens, people with disabilities, students, rural Ohioans, low-income, communities of color, and historically disenfranchised groups. We ask you to uphold your oath to defend and serve ALL Ohio voters by rejecting this legislation.*

*Thank you...Jean Henderson 18 Trailbridge Dr Cincinnati, Ohio 45241 12/1/2022*

