

Proponent Testimony for House Bill 472
House Homeland Security Committee
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Thank you Chairman Ghanbari, Vice Chairman Plummer, Ranking Member Thomas and members of the Homeland Security Committee for the opportunity to provide testimony regarding House Bill 472 – the Ohio Votes Count Act.

It is imperative that HB472 is passed, as written, to ensure we have safe, secure elections. For far too long, we have been relying on appallingly low levels of security while running our elections on these computer systems. We are depending on Ohio election officials who have little or no knowledge of how to keep our elections safe with the use of electronic systems. And worse, we are allowing our voting systems to be inspected by voting machine examiners with little or no technical or cybersecurity background who may or may not even be citizens, may be members of the same political party or even have a criminal record! In addition, it is extremely alarming to know that although Ohio law requires our voting machines, the marking devices and the tabulators to be certified to the latest 2021 cybersecurity standards, they are only certified to 2005 standards!!

HB472 – the Ohio Votes Count Act adopts voting system certification standards based on the most recent National Institute for Standards and Technology guidelines and requires a third-party expert cyber security review. Further, it requires all Board members to be US citizens, have examination teams with no more than 2 members of the same political party and those members cannot have a criminal record. These are basic, no-nonsense solutions.

I urgently implore the committee to pass HB472 and I thank you for your time.