

Proponent Testimony for HB 472
House Homeland Security Committee
May 15, 2024

Steven Race

Dear Chairman Gahnbari, Vice-Chairman Plummer, Ranking Member Thomas, and members of the Homeland Security Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify about my viewpoint pertaining to HB 472, also known as the Ohio Votes Count Act. I have been a poll worker for three years and feel very strongly about keeping our voter rolls accurate and I am aware that even though it is illegal for non-citizens to vote in Ohio, many government agencies, such as the BMV, are required by national law to offer voter registration to everyone who gets a driver's license or Ohio ID even if the person is a non-citizen.

Also due to online national voter registration forms, every Ohio application is placed on our state's voter rolls even if the applicant is a non-citizen or if the information is incomplete or in error. It then falls on the Secretary of State or county Board of Elections to discover these problem voter records and go through the time consuming process of trying to ascertain if the registration is in error. This process can take years to complete. It is also a very inefficient way to reach the goal of accurate voter rolls.

I am in favor of HB 472 for many reasons, but foremost because it specifies a process to screen applicants before they are added to voter rolls. As with so many things in life, it is more efficient to be pro-active rather than re-active. It is also more fair to those who are properly registered voters, and it will give these voters confidence that their votes will not be cancelled out by voters who, for whatever reason, are not qualified to be on the voter rolls.

I appreciate the opportunity to share my perspectives with this committee concerning HB472, and I do think that passage of this bill will go a long way toward building confidence with the voters of Ohio who want to know their votes are protected. I ask that you approve this bill and send it to the House where I hope it will be quickly voted into law.

Respectfully,

Steven Race