

Proponent Testimony for House Bill 472
House Homeland Security Committee
5/20/24
Tim Stechschulte

Chair Ghanbari, Vice Chair Plummer, Ranking Member Thomas, and members of the Home Security Committee

I appreciate the opportunity to speak on this important piece of legislation. I have been involved in the election integrity issue for the last four years. I have worked first hand with Wood Co BOE to help clean up the voter rolls and attended audit recounts and various other tours of the election systems. I want to make it clear that I support all aspects and issues of the proposed bill, and most particular my agreement to the section that allows the option for each county to have a voice in what voting systems that they feel comfortable with.

I am asking you to support and pass **HB 472 "Ohio Votes Count Act"** for the security and safety of our Ohio Elections. In business I learned a long time ago that perception is reality. I have talked to many people who no longer vote, donate or door knock because they don't trust the voting machines. They are aware of lawsuits, court cases and many forensic studies on voting machines that have exposed vulnerabilities within those machines. Over 70% of all voters now have a perception that there are issues, with at least some part of our voting systems or processes.

HB 472 addresses all of the above issues and more. I am extremely interested in the language that would allow each county to use hand counting as an option to electronic tabulations. Think about it, what is the gold standard to voting? Hand counting the audits!! If this is the system used to check against the machine, why not go direct. The Ohio Constitution gives "we the people" the right to participate in our elections and election processes. This language is not a mandate or forcing anyone to do it, it is only giving them an option to choose. One half the counties already use paper ballots to vote but not be counted by hand.

I do ask that you consider my testimony and vote yes to accept the common sense safeguards included in HB 472.

Thank you for your time to consider my testimony

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