

PROPONENT TESTIMONY FOR HOUSE BILL 472 Ohio Votes Count Act

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

I was born in Canada to an American mother and Canadian father. My mother never renounced her American citizenship. She loved this country so well that 52 years after moving to Canada, after my father passed away, she decided she would file a tax return for the rest of her life, in order to give back to the country that had provided her with so much. She was such a great example for me.

I have always had an interest in self-governance. Each vote counts. After the 2020 election, with so much doubt in the air, as soon as I heard about the Election Integrity Network I searched it out so I could help. I quickly became involved in this non-partisan effort to ensure safe elections where each American citizen's vote counts by joining OEIN in Franklin County. HB 472 has now been introduced and will go a long way to ensuring that Ohio can help lead the country in allowing our citizens to rest assured that, indeed, their vote does count.

I know from experience that many people who should vote do not, because they believe the problem of election fraud, whether or not it is real, is believed to be so bad that it is not worth it to vote. They sadly throw their franchise away. Having a bill that outlines the safeguards for each person's vote will help allay the fears many of our citizens have. This can only lead to a good outcome.

Also, when I walked precincts for a person running locally in 2022, I was given a list of registered voters who were ostensibly living at a particular address, yet over and over again when I knocked on the doors, a different family, usually newly arrived from a foreign country, answered. This was alarming. HB 472 will help iron out who is registered and who is not eligible for registration, a process for removing voters from the rolls when they move, and, that only those people who can prove their American citizenship will be eligible to vote. I will have confidence that next time I walk for a candidate, the door I knock on will be the residence of the person on the voter roll!

I urge you to vote yes for HB 472.

Thank you Representatives Bob Peterson and Bernie Willis for sponsoring this bill to improve the security and accuracy of Ohio's elections.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on behalf of House Bill 472.

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