

Dear Chairman Ghanbari, Vice Chairman Plummer, Ranking Member Thomas and members of the Homeland Security Committee:

I am writing you today in support of House Bill 472, The Ohio Votes Count Act.

Thank you sponsor Representatives Willis and Peterson, and co-sponsor Representatives Barhorst, Bird, Claggett, Click, Demetriou, Gross, King, Klopfenstein, Lear, Lipps, McClain, Wiggam, and Williams for your efforts in making sure Ohio elections are secure and accurate for all eligible voters.

I recently learned that county Board of Elections cannot validate voter applicants **BEFORE** adding the applicant to the voter registration databases due to the county Board of Elections not having proper access to verify the applicants' validity. This includes applicants with any name, address, date of birth and ID number.

This leads to the following ineligible voter registrations appearing on Ohio voter rolls with potentially illegal votes in Ohio elections:

- Not a US citizen.
- Not a valid driver's license or state id number
- Not a valid last four digits of social security number
- Not a valid residential address
- Birth date indicates the applicant is too young to vote, or older than the oldest person in the country
- Applicant name, address and/or birth date does not match the driver's license or state id record
- Applicant name and/or birth date does not match last four digits of social security record

In addition, if a registration is found to be ineligible after it is added to the voter rolls, it usually **cannot be removed** from Ohio voter rolls for a **minimum of four years** according to federal and state law.

HB472 Ohio Votes Count Act improves this process by providing county Boards of Elections access to BMV records and the ability to verify US citizenship. All application information is required to be validated before an applicant is added to Ohio voter rolls. Existing ineligible voters are reported by the Secretary of State, available for online public viewing, and county Boards of Elections are responsible to resolve in accordance with federal and state law.

I strongly support HB472 which will make sure persons voting in Ohio elections are validated to be eligible and both U.S. and Ohio citizens before adding applicants to the voter rolls.

I encourage you to support HB472 as well.

Thank you,  
Catherine Collett  
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Hamilton County

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**Cathy Collett**