

Proponent Testimony on HB 472

Thank you, Chairman Ghanbari, Vice Chairman Plummer, Ranking Member Thomas and all members of the Homeland Security Committee for this privilege to address to you as a proponent of the content of HB 472.

My name is Allison Nickolai, a Miami county resident that chose to understand the Ohio voting process using data analysis after the 2020 election. As a result, several concerning anomalies presented themselves requiring the process improvements contained in this bill. The solutions in HB 472 will eliminate bottlenecked precincts with inactive registrations, and maintain confidence that Ohio Elections and our methods of voter roll maintenance really are the Gold Standard that Ohioans deserve and each of us should expect.

My focus for this committee testimony is on 2 major anomalies that were identified and specific HB 472 measures will resolve them both. The first issue is the backlog of inactive voter registrations due to a move out of state. The second is to address the disparity in **how** election procedure requirements dilute the accuracy of the vote.

Inactive voters on rolls: Did you know: The Ohio Voter rolls currently contain over 180,000 inactive but still eligible registrations that National Change of Address Data has identified as having moved out of state? One process improvement identified involves validation of the **status** of the current DL or ID information. This bill requires the Secretary of State to request from the Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) a report of surrendered records every 30 days. This would potentially allow for about 180,000 of the over 1.74 million inactive records in the state to be legally removed from voter rolls for loss of Ohio residency.

Did you know: Not being able to validate the status of Driver's License/ID has led to the prosecution of over 600 people in Ohio in the last 5 years for voting twice in the same election? This statement was made in an interview on May 15, by Secretary of State, Frank LaRose. While we truly appreciate the efforts of the Secretary of State to address these issues when they occur, If Ohio was able to proactively process surrendered license information, how many of those double votes could have been eliminated **before** a ballot was issued? Because states do not share vote records after an election, how many more of these instances were missed?

Understanding the national obligation to enforce 1 person, 1 license and in accordance with current elector qualifications, the residency requirement stated in ORC 3501 for a qualified elector in Ohio can no longer be met as the Ohio license and residency have been surrendered to another state and the elector no longer qualifies as eligible.

The surrendered license report would enable County Boards of Elections to process surrendered licenses monthly like they currently process death records from the Ohio Health Department. It is imperative that Boards of Elections **have** the tools necessary to keep accurate voter records prior to any election.

How “voting disparity” and “dilution of the vote” is resolved by measures in HB 472. There currently exists a disparity in **how** election procedure requirements create unequal validation of ballots cast for counting that remains unaddressed. The **new** Photo ID created by the Ohio BMV as a result of HB 458 contains all the information necessary to validate the qualifications of an eligible elector if presented at the polls or in person during early voting, but the bill did not require a copy to be submitted with absentee ballots. Ohio currently has more valid driver’s licenses and state ID’s than our 8 million registered voters. So why not require a copy of the government issued credential for ALL forms of voting?

Did you know: In the 2022 Midterm election, The Official Canvass revealed over 4 million ballots were cast in Ohio. Secretary of State LaRose identified that over 1.55 million of these ballots were cast in-person during early voting or by absentee ballot. Only 549,000 of those ballots were voted early and had a credential presented. The balance of over 1 MILLION absentee ballots that were cast in the 2022 election, representing 1/4th of the total vote, did **not** present a credential. This is a dilution of the certified canvass totals when over 1 million absentee ballots were not examined in an equal manner as the in-person or early in-person vote.

Secretary of State LaRose has verified that ID information is provided 2 times for those 1 million ballots -both on the ballot request form and again on the security envelope containing the voted ballot and is not in dispute. However, the validation is only as good as the County Board of Election record on file at the time of the review of each submitted document. There is a good chance it is the **same numbers** provided when the initial registration occurred. Is that credential expired? Has the license or state ID been surrendered? If the information provided matches what the voter record contains for that registration, the request is validated, the ballot is issued, and the vote will be counted upon return. In person electors are required to show a government issued ID that must be in date, with current address, or they must vote provisionally. Requiring the **same** of an absentee ballot would alleviate this disparity and allow absentee ballots to receive equal validation treatment.

I welcome any questions you have regarding the information presented herein and respectfully ask for your support of the measures contained in HB 472. Thank you, Representative Bernie Willis and Representative Bob Peterson (HB472 Co-Sponsors) for supporting the provisions contained in this bill to make this a credible piece of legislation that will enhance the Security of Ohio Elections in the future.

4/26/2024 SOS DATA Registered voters total	County	Voter roll 5/13/2024 NCOA Out of State (DATA 9/2023)	Triad "Conf NCOA" 5/3/2024 (Inactive)	potential in state moves UOCAVA (inactive)	SWVRD	CONFIRMATION STATUS	
					% of voter roll moved out of state	Number inactive records 4/26/24 SOS DATA	% inactive due to NCOA out of state moves
17,483	Adams	216	426	210	1.24%	3,500	6.17%
66,056	Allen	1,312	1,821	509	1.99%	15,069	8.71%
34,734	Ashland	344	697	353	0.99%	6,063	5.67%
60,639	Ashtabula	977	1,439	462	1.61%	13,102	7.46%
38,305	Athens	1,015	1,418	403	2.65%	10,217	9.93%
32,428	Auglaize	397	735	338	1.22%	5,300	7.49%
44,306	Belmont	1,053	1,313	260	2.38%	9,863	10.68%
29,435	Brown	454	826	372	1.54%	6,515	6.97%
255,195	Butler	6,924	*		2.71%	60,681	11.41%
18,110	Carroll	227	503	276	1.25%	3,289	6.90%
26,643	Champaign	362	678	316	1.36%	4,930	7.34%
86,945	Clark	1,341	0	-1,341	1.54%	20,148	6.66%
147,616	Clermont	3,898	*		2.64%	29,034	13.43%
27,463	Clinton	362	757	395	1.32%	5,679	6.37%
64,892	Columbiana	1,061	1,437	376	1.64%	13,130	8.08%
22,201	Coshocton	230	383	153	1.04%	4,440	5.18%
27,782	Crawford	301	*		1.08%	5,113	5.89%
876,737	Cuyahoga	19,013	*		2.17%	211,178	9.00%
34,624	Darke	603	748	145	1.74%	5,728	10.53%
26,421	Defiance	519	884	365	1.96%	5,548	9.35%
161,101	Delaware	4,224	5,232	1,008	2.62%	24,312	17.37%
53,655	Erie	871	1,445	574	1.62%	10,109	8.62%
109,587	Fairfield	2,304	3,709	1,405	2.10%	20,930	11.01%
17,108	Fayette	219	435	216	1.28%	3,741	5.85%
888,593	Franklin	28,938	*		3.26%	205,737	14.07%
29,428	Fulton	567	878	311	1.93%	5,115	11.09%
18,732	Gallia	336	446	110	1.79%	3,954	8.50%
68,110	Geauga	1,211	1,871	660	1.78%	10,313	11.74%
120,171	Greene 08	3,781	4,922	1,141	3.15%	23,924	15.80%
24,028	Guernsey	335	577	242	1.39%	4,848	6.91%
602,328	Hamilton	19,329	*		3.21%	154,697	12.49%
51,369	Hancock	1,432	*		2.79%	10,451	13.70%
17,677	Hardin	235	455	220	1.33%	3,427	6.86%
9,834	Harrison	130	283	153	1.32%	2,194	5.93%
20,093	Henry	192	*		0.96%	4,193	4.58%
27,402	Highland	321	716	395	1.17%	6,006	5.34%
18,204	Hocking	141	419	278	0.77%	3,562	3.96%
17,842	Holmes	166	355	189	0.93%	3,522	4.71%
36,529	Huron	457	*		1.25%	7,548	6.05%
20,422	Jackson	215	472	257	1.05%	5,054	4.25%
46,294	Jefferson	1,152	1,447	295	2.49%	12,018	9.59%
42,892	Knox	682	1,086	404	1.59%	8,879	7.68%
162,682	Lake	2,204	3,611	1,407	1.35%	28,105	7.84%

42,644	Lawrence	1,057	1,350	293	2.48%	12,117	8.72%
126,174	Licking	2,375	3,799	1,424	1.88%	25,607	9.27%
32,205	Logan	405	812	407	1.26%	6,306	6.42%
220,434	Lorain	3,744	5,025	1,281	1.70%	50,909	7.35%
297,010	Lucas	8,444	9,811	1,367	2.84%	80,644	10.47%
26,639	Madison	454	841	387	1.70%	4,809	9.44%
160,621	Mahoning	3,234	4,466	1,232	2.01%	36,222	8.93%
38,850	Marion	475	864	389	1.22%	8,319	5.71%
132,254	Medina	2,474	3,609	1,135	1.87%	20,944	11.81%
14,748	Meigs	187	334	147	1.27%	3,412	5.48%
29,605	Mercer	364	*		1.23%	3,884	9.37%
76,957	Miami	1,540	2,181	641	2.00%	13,261	11.61%
9,267	Monroe	148	234	86	1.60%	1,686	8.78%
365,923	Montgomery	9,571	12,729	3,158	2.62%	82,046	11.67%
9,127	Morgan	70	204	134	0.77%	1,665	4.20%
25,179	Morrow	334	1	-333	1.33%	5,366	6.22%
54,026	Muskingum	740	1,172	432	1.37%	11,262	6.57%
8,005	Noble	75	158	83	0.94%	1,433	5.23%
30,470	Ottawa	355	*		1.17%	4,759	7.46%
12,567	Paulding	212	386	174	1.69%	2,512	8.44%
22,682	Perry	181	490	309	0.80%	4,349	4.16%
37,192	Pickaway	552	1,023	471	1.48%	6,614	8.35%
17,736	Pike	219	468	249	1.23%	4,051	5.41%
108,705	Portage	2,139	3,526	1,387	1.97%	20,880	10.24%
28,586	Preble	578	840	262	2.02%	5,592	10.34%
23,767	Putnam	159	327	168	0.67%	3,022	5.26%
82,324	Richland	1,378	912	-466	1.67%	19,565	7.04%
46,115	Ross	644	1,062	418	1.40%	10,397	6.19%
39,994	Sandusky	457	*		1.14%	8,292	5.51%
44,725	Scioto	674	1,000	326	1.51%	11,487	5.87%
34,489	Seneca	290	597	307	0.84%	6,848	4.23%
32,790	Shelby	356	646	290	1.09%	5,728	6.22%
247,763	Stark	3,764	*		1.52%	46,478	8.10%
371,515	Summit	7,485	10,712	3,227	2.01%	73,868	10.13%
135,266	Trumbull	2,597	*		1.92%	27,637	9.40%
58,282	Tuscarawas	723	1,352	629	1.24%	11,628	6.22%
46,121	Union	1,207	1,577	370	2.62%	6,850	17.62%
20,288	VanWert	391	571	180	1.93%	3,947	9.91%
8,418	Vinton	67	213	146	0.80%	2,026	3.31%
173,425	Warren	5,063	6,752	1,689	2.92%	29,262	17.30%
42,484	Washington	1,216	1,391	175	2.86%	8,625	14.10%
73,229	Wayne	1,092	1,820	728	1.49%	15,520	7.04%
24,722	Williams	550	739	189	2.22%	4,962	11.08%
93,253	Wood	2,402	*		2.58%	21,755	11.04%
15,014	Wyandot	124	*		0.83%	2,971	4.17%
Totals		180,617	126,418	36,348	24	1,740,683	24
		* Not a TRIAD GSI vendor reporting county Only 56% of SWVRDF data available (https://lookup.boe.ohio.gov/vtrapp/county_Name/vtreport.aspx) 		Number of counties where MORE than 2% of County voter roll is moves out of state	Total inactive records in state (4/26/2024 SoS download)	Counties with "out of state" MORE than 10% of inactive records	

