

Chair Ray, Vice Chair LaRe, Ranking Member Brent, and members of the House General Government Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Helene Willson. I am a retired senior and reside at 10134 Haga Ridge, Stewart, OH, and I am STRONGLY opposed to SB 293.

Many people in my area rely on mail-in voting. Unlike people in cities with public transportation, many people just don't have reliable transportation and others have difficulty getting out of their homes due to physical disabilities. And then there's flooding that makes transportation nearly impossible at times. The U.S. postal service has become very unreliable in the past few years. (My husband purchases many items online and on numerous occasions items being delivered have gotten as far as Columbus with a day left to arrive here only to be side tracked to another state and don't show up for 4-5 MORE days!) The people who vote by mail have to have their ballots in the mail and postmarked 1 full day before election day. Changing the rules to require mail-in ballots ARRIVE by election day instead of continuing the 4 day acceptance period unfairly punishes voters for something completely out of their control.

Currently, the people who vote by mail have to have their ballots in the mail and postmarked 1 full day BEFORE election day, so they aren't getting any extra time to vote. According to the Ohio Absentee and Early Voting Dashboard, more than 9500 valid ballots were received during the November 2024 4-day post-election window. With the proposed changes in SB 293 these valid votes WOULD NOT BE COUNTED!

I ask you to consider my testimony, respect Ohio voters, and vote NO on this harmful bill. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.