

**To:** Ohio House General Government Committee

**From:** John C. Anderson

**Regarding:** Senate Bill 293

**Date:** 11/17/2025

Committee Members,

I am strongly opposed to Senate Bill 293 because it is a step in the wrong direction. The bill claims to increase election integrity and voter confidence. Let's address these two claims separately.

Regarding election integrity, the current election fraud rate in Ohio, according to our Secretary of State, is close to zero. Since we don't have an election integrity issue now, SB293 will not improve election integrity, and may in fact decrease it since it will raise questions from Ohio voters whose valid absentee ballots don't get counted because of delays from the US Postal Service. Most Ohioans would gladly continue to accept a modest post-election delay to ensure that all valid ballots are received and properly tabulated.

Regarding voter confidence, the measure we should be looking at is voter participation rate. Currently, only about 50%-70% of eligible Ohio voters vote in general elections. The percentage is much smaller for primary elections. We should be looking to increase this participation rate so that every Ohioan that can vote, does vote. A higher voter participation rate gives the election results more legitimacy. It ensures that diverse political groups are represented and makes citizens feel empowered that their voices have been heard. SB293 will certainly decrease the voter participation rate, punishing certain absentee ballot voters for US Postal Service delays that are beyond their control. It may also discourage some Ohio voters from mailing their absentee ballots close to election day since they may fear that their vote won't get counted anyway.

This bill is a solution in search of a problem, and a step in the wrong direction. Please vote against it.

Regards,

John C. Anderson  
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