

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. My name is Tammy Calhoun, and I live in Fremont in Sandusky County. I am strongly opposed to SB 293.

As a poll worker, I see the real impact voting rules have on people. Seniors in my precinct struggle just to make it through the door. Many rely on mail-in ballots because walking long distances, standing in line, or managing transportation is simply too much. Rural voters face slow mail routes and long drives to their polling locations. For both groups, voting by mail is not a luxury. It is the only accessible way to participate.

SB 293 would throw out ballots that were filled out correctly, postmarked on time, and mailed by the legal deadline. Last November, more than 9,500 ballots arrived during the existing four-day window. These voters did everything right. Their votes would be discarded only because of postal delays in rural communities that already struggle with reduced mail service.

The current system does not give anyone extra time to vote. It simply protects voters from delays they cannot control. More than 800,000 Ohioans used the postal service to vote last year because they trust the process to be fair and consistent. SB 293 breaks that trust and punishes the very voters who already face the biggest barriers.

I ask you to consider my testimony, respect the needs of rural voters and seniors, and vote no on SB 293.

Thank you for your time.

Tammy Calhoun