

House General Government Committee
Opponent Testimony for SB 293 from Lynn Buffington
Written Testimony Only
354 N Ashleaf Ln
Beavercreek, Ohio 45440
Hearing November 18, 2025

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

Thank you for considering my testimony today. My name is Lynn Buffington. My husband and I and our two children moved to Beavercreek from Tennessee in 2000. We now have two grown children and two young grandchildren. My husband is still working; I am retired.

Last November, more than 800,000 Ohioans filled out their absentee ballots before election day and returned their ballots by mail. Almost 10,000 of their ballots were delivered by the mail to the Boards of Elections after election day. If SB 293 were to become law, these votes would be essentially stolen by the new law for absolutely no justifiable reason. The new law would not provide a benefit by enabling the election results to be reported sooner, because the boards of election will be processing provisional votes during the current four day window allowed for ballots by mail to be received. I support the current requirement that voters who vote by mail must cast their votes on or before election day. If they choose to mail in their ballots, they should not be disenfranchised because of an unnecessary new deadline.

If you pass this bill, there will be many Ohio voters, their families and friends, who will blame the Ohio Assembly for stealing votes of mainly elderly, disabled, and rural votes, but also of business people whose travel for work causes them to vote absentee by mail. My mother died in 2021 at the age of 90, but prior to that there were many elections in which she proudly voted absentee. You should not make it harder for people like her to have their votes counted.

Please vote no on this harmful and unnecessary bill. Please do not advance it. Thank you for reading my testimony.

Sincerely,

Lynn Buffington