

Written Testimony of Jan Nesp or, PhD
SB293
Ohio House General Government Committee
November 17, 2025

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

My name is Jan Nesp or. I am an emeritus Professor of educational policy at the Ohio State University. I am testifying as an individual and do not represent the university in any way. I write to strongly oppose to SB 293.

Mail-in voting has a long history in this country, and we know from research that it increases voter turn-out, something any supporter of democracy should encourage.¹ Almost one-third of votes cast in 2024 were mail-in.² The groups who depend most upon voting in this fashion are senior citizens like myself, and overseas U.S. military. Given the state of the privatized U.S. mail system, we also know that mail sometimes gets stalled and that delivery can be unreasonably delayed. The practice of accepting mail after the election day has been in place for years: there is no evidence that it is associated with any form of fraud, nor has it likely to cause major disruptions or chaos in elections. There is no good reason for a law such as SB293, and the Supreme Court has recently agreed to consider whether such laws are even constitutional.³

As a life-long educator and student of educational practice, I can say that one of the biggest struggles we face is against the increasing fatalism and pessimism of members of younger generations.⁴ These attitudes are grounded in their observations of the political incompetence or corruption of elected officials, and reinforced when those officials create anti-democratic structures, laws such as SB293, that would reject a person's legitimate, timely vote for reasons beyond their control.

I ask you to consider my testimony, respect Ohio voters, and vote NO on SB293.

Sincerely,
Jan Nesp or

1 <https://thehill.com/opinion/white-house/5467974-voting-mail-benefits-democracy/>

2 <https://statesunited.org/resources/americans-vote-by-mail-2024/>

3 Amy Howe, *Justices agree to decide major election law case*, SCOTUSblog (Nov. 10, 2025, 9:56 AM), <https://www.scotusblog.com/2025/11/justices-agree-to-decide-major-election-law-case/>

4 <https://news.berkeley.edu/2024/06/26/young-voters-have-growing-power-but-broken-politics-leave-them-fatalistic-studies-find/>