

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 Kristine Willings. I am an Ohio resident all my life and raised my family here in our great state. I am strongly opposed to SB 293.

SB 293 would throw out valid votes

- More than 9,500 ballots were received during the November 2024 four-day post election window (source: [Ohio Absentee and Early Voting Dashboard](#))
- Ballots that are properly filled out, postmarked on time, and mailed by the legal deadline would be discarded simply because of postal delays

SB 293 is especially harmful to:

- Rural Ohio voters: slower mail routes and reduced postal service days mean longer delivery times
- Ohio seniors, military, and Ohioans with disabilities: voting by mail is often the only option for these voters
- Ohio voters without reliable transportation: Ohioans living in poverty and students who often do not have their own vehicles would be disproportionately impacted

Ohio election law already requires mail-in ballots to be postmarked on the day before Election Day.

- **Absentee voters are not getting any extra time to vote**
- The existing 4-day acceptance period does not extend the time Ohio voters can cast a ballot, it is simply a mail delivery window to ensure ballots from eligible voters are counted

Ohioans expect their mailed ballots will be counted.

Of the more than 2.6M Ohioans who voted before Election Day last November, 803,253 (31%) voters used the US Postal Service as their preferred method of ballot return (source: [Ohio Absentee and Early Voting Dashboard](#))

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.

Respectfully,

Kristine Willings
Resident of Stow, Ohio