

# Opponent Testimony on Senate Bill 293

11/16/2025

Chair, Vice Chair, Ranking Member, and members of the committee: thank you for the opportunity to testify in writing in **opposition** to **Senate Bill 293**.

My name is Jean Henderson, and I am writing because I believe deeply in an Ohio where every eligible voter—regardless of ZIP code, mobility, age, or resources—can cast a ballot and have it counted. SB 293 undermines that promise.

SB293 will throw out valid votes! Last November, more than 9,500 Ohio ballots were received during the current four-day post-Election Day window. These were **legally cast ballots**—properly completed, postmarked on time, and mailed before the deadline. Ohioans followed the rules. They trusted the system. They trusted this state.

SB 293 breaks that trust. Under SB 293, every one of these votes would have been thrown out through no fault of the voter. This bill punishes voters for delayed mail.

**Changing this deadline doesn't stop delays—it only increases the number of Ohioans whose votes will be discarded.**

**That's not election integrity... That's disenfranchisement!**

Rural Ohio voters will be hit hard.

Ohio seniors and Ohioans with disabilities will suffer.

Ohioans without reliable transportation are disproportionately affected.

**So** under SB293, an elderly person who struggles to get rides, can complete her ballot and get into the mail 3 days before election day. Because of a mail delay, her ballot isn't delivered until two days after the election. Under current law, her vote would count—just as our democracy promised it would. Under SB 293, her ballot would be thrown away.

Not because she missed a deadline.

Not because she made a mistake.

Simply because the mail was slow.

Election laws should protect voters, not set traps for them.

They should ensure every eligible ballot is counted, not create new ways to throw ballots out.

**SB 293 solves no problem. But it creates a very real one: disenfranchising thousands of Ohioans who follow the rules.**

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to **reject Senate Bill 293**.

Thank you Jean Henderson