



**William P. DeMora**

State Senator  
25th Senate District

**Committees:**

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Chair Roegner, Vice Chair Gavarone, Ranking Member Blackshear, and Senate General Government Committee members thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 37. This is a straightforward bill that would move Ohio's presidential primary election date to the first Tuesday after the first Monday in May, but that one change will have a significant, positive impact on how we run our elections in Ohio.

Currently, in presidential election years, Ohio holds its primary elections in mid-March. This inconsistent schedule has caused many issues that disrupt the electoral process. We see voter confusion, unnecessarily long and drawn-out partisan election seasons, and a situation where candidates for federal, state, and local offices are required to file petitions 11 months before the general election, meaning there are times that candidates have to file in the previous calendar year. This creates challenges not just for voters and candidates but also for our election administrators, who have to start filing petitions immediately after they finish the previous election!

Senate Bill 37 will fix this. Moving the primary to May would align Ohio's primary election date to be consistent with the national schedule. Reducing confusion and streamlining the process. It will also provide the necessary time for redistricting to be completed fully, which in turn will allow county Boards of Elections, as well as candidates, more time to properly prepare for the filing deadlines.

A later primary election date will make for a smoother, more orderly process for everyone involved—voters, candidates, and election administrators alike. It's a simple change but one that will contribute to a much more efficient and effective electoral system in Ohio.

Thank you, and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.