

May 23, 2025

Chair Roegner, Vice Chair Gavarone, Ranking Member Blackshear and members of the Senate General Government Committee:

My name is Sharlyn Katzner and I am from Bowling Green. Thank you for the opportunity to testify. As a concerned Ohioan, I am writing to express my opposition to SB 153.

The cornerstone of our democracy rests on our foundational right to vote. I concur that only American citizens should be allowed to register to vote and cast their votes in our elections. Current law already exists to ensure this. Anyone who is not eligible to vote is flagged and prevented from casting a ballot.

SB 153 requires that anyone who wants to register to vote or update their voter registration must do so ***in person*** at their board of elections yet provides no funding for the extra staffing this would require. Last year alone, the Wood County Board of Elections (BOE) processed **34,424** voter registrations with over **20,000** stemming from the online form that will cease to exist if this bill passes. With the elimination of drop boxes this bill also proposes, an additional **2,731** visitors would walk through our BOE doors (the number returned via the drop box last year at our BOE). Foot traffic will increase even further given that SB 153 requires the driver's license name to match the voter registration name exactly. If a voter's middle name is spelled out on their driver's license, but is only an initial on their voter registration, they will need to make a trip to the BOE to correct it. This will catch many voters off guard causing them to vote provisionally which in will cause an additional rush of people to the BOE to cure ballots (many do not if their candidate lost or won by large margins) or as proposed in SB 153 no longer be registered to vote. As the BOE is only open, Monday the Friday from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, staff will be dealing with a lot of grouchy people waiting in line.

SB 153 does not make our elections more secure it merely makes it harder for those already following our election laws to vote. The Secretary of State has said our election accuracy is already at 99.9%. SB 153 is unnecessary and puts an undue burden on both the board of elections and our citizens.

Please vote no on SB 153.

Thank you for your time. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Sharlyn Katzner

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