

Senate Bill 153

Interested Party Testimony

Inconsistent Voter Verification Standards Allows Votes from Unverified Voters

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB153. I'm here to raise a concern about a serious issue in Ohio's voter registration process that is inadequately addressed in this bill: the lack of eligibility verification for many existing voters.

Under current law, individuals with an unverifiable identification — including tens of thousands whose voter registration information does not match Bureau of Motor Vehicles or Social Security Administration records – can remain on the voter rolls and cast regular ballots. In 2024 alone, 39,000 individuals registered using invalid or mismatched social security information. These same individuals can also vote by mail using the same invalid credentials, with no further verification required.

In SB153, unless a voter changes their name or address, they may never be subject to such verification. New registrants are subject to stricter verification, while unverifiable voters remain under a lower standard. This inconsistency undermines both fairness and public trust.

I urge the committee to amend SB153 to include a comprehensive, data-driven eligibility review of **all** registered voters, using available federal and state records, to ensure compliance with the Ohio Constitution's requirement that only eligible citizens may vote. President Trump's March 2025 Executive Order supports this effort by directing federal agencies - including the Social Security Administration and Department of Human Security – to make available data for election verification on federal records.

A secure and fair election system requires that all voters are held to the same eligibility standard. With proper safeguards and support, Ohio can close this loophole and restore public confidence in our elections.

Thank you for considering this amendment to SB153.

Respectfully,

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Hamilton County