

## **Senate Bill 153 Interested Party Testimony**

### **Unequal Application of Identification in the Voter Registration Process**

Chair Roegner and members of the General Government Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit Interested Party testimony on Senate Bill 153 and the broader effort to ensure fair and uniform application of Ohio election law.

SB153 treats voters differently depending on the type of identification they use when registering to vote:

- Voters who register using an Ohio driver's license or state ID have their identity and citizenship status processed and verified through a database, specifically The Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) records.
- However, voters who register using the last four digits of their social security number do not have their identity and citizenship status processed and verified through a database, even though a database exists and President Trump directed the Commissioner of the Social Security Administration to make relevant information available from such a database to state and local election officials for election purposes<sup>1</sup>.

Instead, voters who register using the last four digits of their Social Security Number are required to provide documentary proof of citizenship (DPOC).

This creates a two-tiered system of voter registration, where voters using equally valid forms of identification face unequal burdens. It penalizes those who do not have a driver's license or state ID by requiring them to provide documentary proof of citizenship.

This disparity raises significant concerns of unequal treatment under the law, violating the principle that similarly situated voters should be treated the same. It also increases the administrative burden for both voters and Boards of Elections.

To address this disparity, I recommend that SB153 be amended to authorize the use of Social Security Administration (SSA) verification to confirm identity and citizenship for individuals registering with the last four digits of their social security number.

Respectfully Submitted,  
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<sup>1</sup> President Trump Executive Order 14248, March 25, 2025