

Senate Bill 153 Interested Party Testimony

Voting with Unverified ID Undermines Accurate Elections

Chairperson and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide interested party testimony on Senate Bill 153.

I respectfully recommend that Senate Bill 153 be amended to provide a clear and consistent message: any voter who has not been verified as having a valid form of identification must vote a provisional ballot until their records are corrected.

In addition, Board of Elections officials must be given the tools necessary to verify a voter's identification status ahead of elections. This includes access to records from the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles and Social Security Administration to confirm whether a potential voter has valid US identification. Frankly, I was shocked to learn that Boards of Elections do not already have access to these records. How can we expect them to maintain accurate voter rolls without access to this critical information?

This is not about making it harder to vote—it's about ensuring integrity, consistency, and fairness in Ohio elections. Requiring all voters who registered with unverified or invalid ID to vote provisionally is a common-sense safeguard that protects the integrity of the vote.

This amendment to Senate Bill 153 would not deny any eligible citizen the right to vote—it simply ensures that their eligibility be verified before their ballot is counted. It is a reasonable and necessary step toward maintaining public confidence in our elections

I urge you to support this approach and to ensure that voters whose identification is not verified ahead of elections be required to vote provisionally until their records are corrected.

Thank you,

James Greenfield

Montgomery, Ohio