

May 27, 2025

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

My name is Sybrina King, and I am a lifelong Ohio resident. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony about Senate Bill 153. I am writing to express my opposition to SB 153 for the reasons listed below.

Governor DeWine is opposed to this bill. In March 2023, House Bill 458 was signed into law. Because of this recently enacted legislation that implemented a number of changes to the voting process in Ohio, Governor DeWine does not believe another such piece of legislation is necessary at this time.

This bill makes it more difficult for Ohio citizens to exercise their right to vote.

Proposed changes will make it more difficult for new voters to become registered voters and for registered voters to maintain their voting eligibility. Provisions will affect a broad array of Ohioans from rural voters who may struggle to get to a nearby BMV, to young people looking to vote for the first time, to married women who have changed their names. Anyone with a mismatch of information at the BMV and on their voting records is at risk of having their vote thrown out. And, frankly, the challenge that would be faced by women who have changed their names just feels like a way to get around the 19th amendment.

SB 153 overloads our local Boards of Elections with unfunded mandates and new requirements while giving them zero additional support. This 200+ page bill adds significant new burdens for Boards of Election, including tedious administrative tasks. At the same time, it eliminates drop boxes, which will require more election staff to be available during early vote season to accept and process ballots. Because our Boards of Election have been busy administering the recent primary elections, election officials have not had adequate time to review this legislation in its entirety and weigh in on the impact these new responsibilities will have on their ability to administer future elections.

Please vote no on SB 153. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Sybrina King
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