

To: Ohio Senate General Government Committee  
Theresa Gavarone, Chair

Re: Opposition Testimony to SB 153

Senate Bill 153 is INFURIATING and an affront to the democratic process.

Ohio's SAVE Act doesn't "save" anything. Instead, SB 153 puts up roadblocks to the voting process by putting in place laws that make it extremely difficult for citizens:

- to verify their eligibility to vote
- to register to vote (Voter Registration Manipulation);

If passed, SB 153 would effectively shrink the size of the electorate, preventing thousands of Ohioans from having their voice heard via the ballot box and, consequently, making our elected officials accountable for their actions.

**Verify Eligibility:** SB 153 requires Ohio to compare voter information across government databases and requires a voter's identification and voter registration to match EXACTLY. If the information does not match, the voter must obtain the documents to prove their eligibility:

- An employed voter might need to take a vacation day to obtain the necessary documents.
- Those with no paid time-off will be taking a pay cut and/or could possibly be putting their job in jeopardy.
- A voter might not have the money to pay the fees to get the required documents or a vehicle to go to the appropriate agency to get the documents.
- Documents might not be speedily available from government agencies and deadlines for submitting those documents will be missed.
- A voter might have to vote provisionally, which means they have four days to present documents in person to the BOE.
- If a voter fails to respond to a notice to verify information on databases within fourteen days, they will be referred to prosecution. FOR BEING A REGISTERED VOTER.

These burdensome processes are a tax on a citizen's time. Many will just give up and thus, the electorate shrinks.

**Voter Registration Manipulation:** Currently, citizens can register to vote where they are, online or via voter registration drives sponsored by many civic groups. SB 153 eliminates these easy methods by requiring citizens to go to their Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) or the Board of Elections (BOE) to register IN PERSON when those offices are OPEN. Many people—especially the less affluent, elderly and people with disabilities—do not have the means to go in person or to obtain the documents necessary to prove their citizenship and identity.

When the number of voters increases, the more our elected officials will be held accountable for their actions. Clearly, this bill, with its burdensome procedures, is meant to prevent that accountability and suppress votes.

It is the General Assembly's job to make it easier for citizens to vote, not put up roadblocks. SB 153 needs to be stopped.

Respectfully submitted,  
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