

5/27/2025

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

My name is Olivia Jump, and I am an Ohio citizen from Columbus. Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I am writing to express my opposition to SB 153.

I understand that SB 153 is intended to make our elections more secure, but frankly, it seems unnecessary. Our elections are already secure. I have previously worked as a Precinct Election Official for an Ohio election, so I can attest to this fact. Our current voting requirements ensure that all voters are citizens with valid photo identification. Our systems flag even simple mistakes such as showing up at the wrong voting location, so no voter would be able to commit fraud, such as by voting multiple times. All information was stored securely both with digital and physical protections. Ohio citizens do not need to worry about election insecurity. Even Governor Dewine has previously stated that we do not need any more laws aimed at increasing election security. In response to House Bill 472 in May 2024, Dewine said, "The burden of proof is on those who say we need to change the law. When I signed the last reform bill, I said, as far as I was concerned, we were done." What more do lawmakers need to hear?

Furthermore, SB 153 would disenfranchise many eligible voters. By making it so all records at the Board of Elections must match records at the Bureau of Motor Vehicles, SB 153 would strip voting rights of anyone who, for example, moved addresses without getting a new drivers license. Drivers licenses in Ohio last up to 8 years, so getting a new one after a move (especially if they move multiple times) could be an unnecessary hassle and expense for Ohio voters. Many voters may not have BMVs nearby, especially those in rural areas, and these people would be disproportionately affected. This requirement for all records to match between the BMV and BOE also would make it much harder, or likely impossible, to run voter registration drives to encourage people to take part in their civic duty. Voter registration drives are helpful for all citizens, especially young people, who would also be disproportionately affected by the law.

Finally, SB 153 attacks the citizen initiative process, making it harder for Ohio citizens to have our voices heard and to get our concerns on the ballot. Requirements that people must identify if they are compensated for working on a ballot initiative are unnecessary and vague about how they will be enforced. They are simply a way of silencing citizen initiative takers.

In conclusion, I strongly oppose SB 153 because it attacks Ohio voters at every turn, from voter registration to the citizen initiative process. Furthermore, it "solves" a problem that does not exist, because our elections are already secure and even Governor Dewine believes no further election

security laws are needed. The only reason to pass SB 153 is to enact voter suppression, which is the overall effect SB 153 will have. SB 153 will not protect our voting process; instead, we must protect voter eligibility and citizen initiatives by blocking its passage. Please vote no on SB 153. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
Olivia Jump