

May 25, 2025

Dear Ohio Senate General Government Committee,

I rise to object to [Senate Bill 153](#) in defense of my constituents and all Ohioans who deserve to participate in free and fair elections. The People of Ohio consistently unite around shared principles: Elections should be easy for every legal voter to participate in. Every legal vote should count. Elections should be hard to cheat in. And politicians should not cheat by weaponizing the State to suppress or subvert the will of voters.

Senate Bill 153 undermines the consent of the governed by abusing the government's powers with administrative hurdles making it harder for legal voters to vote and participate in ballot initiatives.

I have served as a poll worker, and I can testify that Ohio's elections are already safe and secure thanks to the diligence of bipartisan election administrators who honor their oaths of office. Ohio's Secretary of State already brags that Ohio's elections are safe and secure, and we already have strong defenses against cheating and against ineligible voters attempting to vote. We know that Senate Bill 153 does not solve a problem – **SB 153 creates problems with Jim-Crow-style barriers that are far more likely to prevent legal voters from exercising their constitutional rights than they are to prevent cheating.**

I used to work on democracy programs like election observation missions in Iraq and Lebanon. If Ohio was a foreign country, our journalists would be questioning why Ohio already makes voting harder than other states. [As the UK-based paper The Guardian reported in 2020, Ohio's quarter-mile early-voting lines are signs of voter suppression.](#) The Ohio Secretary of State's directives to limit the number of polling locations and drop boxes in our most highly populated counties [ran counter to the opinions of our courts.](#) **Let's be honest: SB 153 creates unequal access to the polls with unreasonably long lines in Ohio's larger and more diverse counties, while Republicans in white rural counties are given easier access.**

In the August 2023 Special Election forced by this Statehouse, [57% of Ohioans – including 66% of Summit County](#) – rejected a [dark-money-backed referendum](#) designed to stifle Ohio's constitutional ballot initiative process, which [President Teddy Roosevelt came here to advocate for during Ohio's 1912 Constitutional Convention.](#) **Now SB 153 seeks to subvert our Constitution and the will of voters by strangling the ballot initiative process with unnecessary rules restricting who can collect signatures and how.**

The [only proponent for SB 153 was a dark money group](#) funded by the same out-of-state billionaires backing anti-democracy initiatives [like August 2023's Issue 1](#) and [Ranked Choice Voting ban bills like SB 63.](#) Senate Bill 153 is just the latest bill designed to shield corrupt politicians from accountability by turning Ohio into a [laboratory of autocracy.](#) Please reject SB 153.

If you doubt anything I say is true, please review my sources and ask me questions.
We are Ohio. The free world is watching.

Thank you,
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