

General Government Committee,

I urge you to reject SB 153. Requiring local boards of election to verify citizenship before voting is redundant and creates barriers to voting without solving any problem. My wife until recently kept her maiden name so could have very nearly been caught up in the unnecessary new registration requirements SB 153 and HB 233 introduce. A passport costs \$130 and voting in Ohio should not be pay-to-play.

SB 153 and HB 233 would stifle citizen access in other ways, including banning ballot boxes, making getting issues and candidates on the ballot much harder including requiring some signature collectors to wear specific badges, violating signatories' rights by tossing out signatures for minor clerical errors, and changing voter registration rules for signature collectors.

Ohio's elections are already secure and SB 153 and HB 233 make changes in search of a problem which doesn't exist. They burden local boards of elections and will negatively impact turnout by in effect denying many Ohioans their right to participate in elections.

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