

I am writing in opposition to SB 153 (and its companion in the House). For several decades, I have participated in voter registration drives in southeast Ohio. It has been heartbreaking to see the deterioration in voter trust of the election system. This does NOT, however, stem from the rampant fraud that those pushing this repressive law would make us think. It comes from the efforts of our Ohio legislature to restrict turnout and participation.

Why? I have no clue; I cannot imagine. Only you all can answer that.

1        Verifying our citizenship is unnecessary and burdensome. Those of you who can easily produce the necessary documents (I'm not entirely sure that I can) seem to lack any empathy for those who face bureaucratic and economic obstacles. Did you realize that it is already illegal for non-citizens to vote?

2        Making human mistakes illegal is in vogue in legislatures these days. I strongly object to the provision that voters would face prosecution for failing to respond to a mailed notification. This is a straight up bully tactic.

3        Our Secretary of State has gone from high praise for Ohio's election system, to support for the most picayune and unnecessary elements of accuracy on registration forms, ballots, and personal identification. This is a huge burden on local Boards of Election, as well as the driver of thousands of (otherwise valid) provisional ballots.

So much more that is anti-voter in this bill! Please do your job.