

**Interested Party Testimony on Senate Bill 153
Prior Voter Registrations May Not Be Authorized for Cancellation**

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide Interested Party testimony on Senate Bill 153 and its impact on the integrity of Ohio's voter rolls.

While SB153 took a first step by requesting voters to list their previous address on the registration and update form, and stating that election officials will be notified of any address change, the form does not clearly indicate an authorization to cancel a voter's prior registrations. This lack of clarity enables duplicate registrations to persist across counties or even across state lines, which distorts precinct sizes, turnout percentages, and redistricting data, while also increasing the potential for voter fraud.

Over 179,000 Ohio voters have submitted a USPS National Change of Address (NCOA) form, listing both their Ohio address and a new out-of-state address. Many remain on Ohio rolls for four or more years after moving, posing a risk of identity theft since NCOA data is commercially available to anyone.

To minimize these vulnerabilities, SB153 should be amended to include the following changes:

1. Update all voter registration and update forms and provisional ballots to include the following attestation: "I understand that if I am registered to vote at any other address, the election officials will be notified of my change of address. I authorize cancellation of all registrations previously issued in my name in this state and any other state."
This direct statement eliminates ambiguity and ensures clear voter consent, without requiring voters or officials to look up or interpret references to the Revised Code.
2. When a voter moves within Ohio and authorizes cancellation of their former registration, but the signature on file does not match the new registration, require the BOE at the new address to:
 - Send a notice to the registrant at the new address, explaining the issue, and
 - Request completion and return of an authorization form to finalize cancellation of the former registration.
3. When a BOE is notified of a voter who moves to another state and requests cancellation of their Ohio registration on the new state's form, but the signature in the new state is unavailable or does not match:
 - Require the Ohio BOE to send a forwardable notice to the voter's address (if USPS forwarding period has lapsed, use the new address provided),
 - Notify the registrant that cancellation was not completed due to signature mismatch or absence, and
 - Request that the registrant complete and return a signed authorization form to cancel their Ohio registration.

Thousands of Ohio voters routinely appear on citizen-led duplicate record queries—not due to coincidence, but because their former registrations were never properly canceled. Current law and procedures are unclear, incomplete, or inconsistently applied. SB153 is an important opportunity to close these gaps and protect the integrity of Ohio's elections.

By adding clear attestation language to all relevant forms and requiring follow-up where signatures cannot be matched, duplicate registrations can be prevented. This will reduce the risk of error and fraud, and improve public confidence in our voter rolls.

I urge the committee to adopt these commonsense updates as part of SB153. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

