

SB153 testimony

I am writing to ask you to vote NO on SB153. I am a volunteer who registers folks to vote in the Cleveland Area. I have volunteered for many years educating voters on the rules to follow on how important it is to vote and encouraging all qualified residents of Ohio to make their voice heard, no matter their political leanings. It saddens me that the Ohio Legislature is considering such harsh rules for our voters to follow. The legislation will surely discourage young voters from participating when they must provide a passport or birth certificate to register to vote. These youthful voters often don't think about voting until the last minute, and guess what, it will be too late to get those documents together. It will be crippling to elderly voters that may no longer be able to drive to the BOE or BMV to show documentation let alone go through the bureaucracy of obtaining those needed papers from a government that is pulling back from our citizens. These rules will be bewildering to our new citizens as they navigate the land of the free and cast their votes as a new American. These laws will result in people with disabilities to decide not to vote as they are unable to register online, by mail, drop box, or through voting organizations. These laws will also make it difficult for women who have changed their name upon marriage, people like myself. We will have to provide additional documentation in order to vote, very frustrating. Our elections are safe now! These policies make our elections almost impossible or cumbersome for such a large number of people.

One must wonder what the real reason for SB153 is for, certainly not for the residents of Ohio who are citizens of our great country. One other disadvantage of implementing these new rules would be that Boards of Elections will have to register all new voters and those that have recently moved in person! Our Boards of Elections are underfunded, with many new rules and laws that they are already mandated to follow. I urge you to not pass SB153 with regulations that are cumbersome and seemly undemocratic. Don't you want all citizens to vote? I do!