



May 24, 2025

Re: Opposition to SB 153

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

My name is Beth Sullebarger, and I am President of Woman's City Club of Greater Cincinnati. Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I am writing to express my opposition to SB 153. This massive bill is unnecessary and deeply harmful.

On behalf of the board of the Woman's City Club, I urge you to oppose SB 153, a massive, unnecessary and deeply harmful bill that make it harder for eligible Ohioans to vote and harder to collect petition signatures, while at the same time placing impossible bureaucratic and financial burdens on our county boards of elections.

SB 153 will intimidate civically active Ohioans by threatening petition committee members and circulators with politically motivated investigations. The bill enacts onerous/nit-picky new requirements that make it harder to successfully gather enough signatures for a ballot initiative.

SB 153 makes it harder to register and cast your ballot.

SB 153 creates an arduous process for verifying citizenship that would end up preventing tens of thousands of eligible Ohio voters from casting a ballot – especially married women, young people, and the less affluent.

Documentary proof of citizenship would likely ban all registration except at the BMV or board of elections offices, including banning online registration.

SB 153 overloads our local Boards of Elections with unfunded mandates and new requirements while giving them zero additional support. The bill adds a mountain of tedious and unnecessary administrative tasks, without increasing funding.

BOEs will be forced to take on direct costs, increased needs for hiring and training to perform the arduous recordkeeping, list maintenance, record keeping, provisional ballot process, and petition validation mandates in the bill.

SB 153 bans drop boxes, which places a burden on voters while also increasing work for the boards of elections.

The tiny amount of voter fraud is simply not enough to justify making it harder for voters to vote.

Please vote "no."

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Beth Sullebarger".

Beth Sullebarger
President
Woman's City Club

103 William Howard Taft Road
Cincinnati, OH 45219
513-751-0100

womanscityclub@gmail.com
www.womanscityclub.org

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To educate
empower
and engage
the citizens of
Greater Cincinnati
to participate
together in
promoting the
common good