

Interested Party Testimony on Senate Bill 153

May 27 , 2025

Topic: SB153 Falls Short in Enhancing Ohio's Critical Infrastructure Elections

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide Interested Party testimony on Senate Bill 153. My name is Tristan Trayton Hatfield and I served as a Pole Location Supervisor (PLS) during the May 6, 2025 primary election in Montgomery County Ohio. I am here today to express concern that SB153, while well-intentioned, does not go far enough to secure Ohio's voter registration system.

Under current law, voter registrations are added to the rolls without confirming identity or U.S. citizenship. BOEs lack access to the databases necessary to verify citizenship, and copies of documents are accepted without authentication, leaving our system vulnerable to fraud.

During my training as a poll worker I received no training regarding verifying an individual's citizenship by examining the individual driver's license as directed by secretary of state Frank LaRose in Directive 2024-09. This directive states that *"unacceptable forms of photo ID, including photo IDs issued to non-citizens. Ohio BMV issued photo IDs now contain a non-citizen notation on the back of the photo ID and license. "*

Given my experience, what assurance is there that local boards of elections would provide adequate training for poll workers to adequately verify documentation showing that an individual is a U.S. citizen?

SB153 should be amended to:

- Require verification of identity and citizenship *before* registration.
- Give BOEs access to federal and state databases like SSA, SAVE, and BMV.
- Prohibit expired and out-of-state IDs as proof of citizenship.
- Train BOEs *not* poll workers to authenticate citizenship documents.

These changes would enhance transparency, and help restore public trust in our elections.

Thank you for your time and commitment to election integrity.

Tristan Trayton Hatfield

Montgomery Country