

Interested Party Testimony on Senate Bill 153

Individuals are Added to the Voter Rolls **BEFORE** Verifying They Are Eligible to Vote

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

As elections are a designated component of our nation's critical infrastructure, I appreciate this committee's efforts to improve the integrity of Ohio's elections. Unfortunately, SB153 does not close existing gaps that leave our elections vulnerable to malfeasance due to the lack of verification of identity and eligibility—specifically U.S. citizenship—**BEFORE** a name is added to Ohio's voter rolls. *Ohio banks do not allow an individual to access a bank account **BEFORE** verifying the individual's credentials. Why should Ohio's elections be any less secure?*

This practice is contrary to the public position of Ohio Secretary of State Frank LaRose in his August 29, 2024 press release, which called for citizenship verification before adding an applicant to the voter file.

It conflicts with President Trump's Executive Order 14248, which mandates that all state and local election officials verify the eligibility of voters using available federal databases prior to registration approval.

In 2024, the Department of Government Efficiency reported that 2.1 million noncitizens were issued Social Security numbers—many of whom voted. This raises serious concerns for Ohio, where no citizenship verification is required **BEFORE** individuals are added to the voter rolls. The current Annual Noncitizen Review, as codified in law, is only capable of identifying a small fraction of potential noncitizens.

To close this gap, I respectfully propose SB153 be amended to verify eligibility, which includes United States citizenship, **BEFORE** being added to the official voter rolls. Verification must include confirmation of a valid driver's license or ID, and a review of federal databases in accordance with Executive Order 14248.

This amendment fulfills the request made by Secretary LaRose to verify citizenship **BEFORE** registration is completed and aligns Ohio law with the President's Executive Order 14248, ensuring that only eligible U.S. citizens are added to the voter rolls,

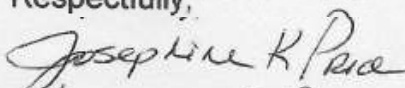
Without a clear mandate to verify citizenship and other eligibility verifications **BEFORE** voter registration, SB153 risks perpetuating the vulnerabilities already present in Ohio's voter registration system. The measures suggested by Secretary of State LaRose are not only necessary but also long overdue.

Adding voters to the rolls **BEFORE** verifying their eligibility is both unsound and unnecessary. The technology and legal authority exist to ensure proper verification **BEFORE** registration - what remains is the political will to implement it.

I urge the Committee to adopt this critical amendment and ensure Ohio's voter registration process begins with security, not shortcuts.

Thank you for your time and commitment to election integrity.

Respectfully,


JOSEPHINE K PRICE