

Loraine McCosker
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May 26, 2025

Dear Senate General Governing Committee,

Please accept this testimony in opposition of SB 153. This is Loraine McCosker, 22 year resident of Ohio, voter, parent, retired public health nurse, retired Ohio University Instructor of 17 years. SB 153 will suppress the vote and citizen engagement in Ohio in multiple areas.

Citizenship documentation: Passport, birth certificate needed. If you have a birth certificate but you got married and changed your name, then your birth certificate no longer has your correct name on it. This would then require a marriage license and other complexities. This would repress voting women who did change their name (I did not 41 years ago) but do not have access to the documentation of their original name. According to the ACLU, 84% of women who get married change their surname. This means roughly 69 million American women do not have a birth certificate nationally that matches their legal name, disqualifying their birth certificates from being considered valid documentation while trying to vote. Even more concerning, marriage certificates are not stated to be a valid form of proof, leaving millions of people without a viable alternative.

According to **Ohio Citizen Journal**, May, 5, 2025, (Nick Evans) : “The Senate measure, S.B. 153, would require every voter to show proof of citizenship to register to vote. Under current law only citizens may vote, and officials regularly comb through the rolls looking for individuals improperly registered. The only deterrent against registering and voting illegally is the threat of prosecution. That’s worked remarkably well. Nearly every registration flagged by the secretary of state has turned out to be a false positive. A rigorous review by the attorney general found just six cases of illegal voting. In an electorate of 8.1 million voters that’s .00007%, or less than one ten thousandth of 1%. Please note that many people, especially students and young adults move often. That requires changing their address and registration with each vote. We want youth to vote, to be engaged in the process of civil engagement.

Board of Elections are burdened with tasks

SB 153 overloads our local Boards of Elections with unfunded mandates and new requirements while giving them 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.

Drop boxes

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

There are several benefits of ballot drop boxes in primary and general elections. Benefits include: Convenience, Voting security, Accessibility, Early voting.

Ballot drop boxes provide a convenient way for voters to submit their ballots. This includes those who cannot vote in person on Election Day. They are beneficial for voters with disabilities or those living in remote areas. It is another option for voters where the postal service might be unreliable. Secure drop box designs prevent tampering. They ensure authorized personnel collect the ballots. Modern ballot drop boxes have various security features. These include surveillance cameras, tamper-evident seals, and GPS tracking for transportation. Election officials regularly collect ballots from these boxes to ensure timely counting. Ballot collection boxes also facilitate early voting. This allows voters to submit their ballots before Election Day, freeing up some of the voting center congestion and long lines with in-person voting. (https://www.lawinfo.com/resources/civil-rights/right-to-vote/ballot-drop-boxes-which-states-allow.html#prosnbspof_drop_boxes).

Please vote against SB 153.

Respectfully,

Loraine McCosker

Athens, Ohio