

INTERESTED PARTY TESTIMONY
Senate Bill 153 (SB153) Interested Party Testimony
Training not adequate to authenticate identification

- Chairperson and Members of the Committee:
- Thank you for the opportunity to submit interested party testimony for Senate Bill 153. I am Sue Mazzarini from Fairfield County.

Election officials and poll workers are not required to be trained to identify or authenticate citizenship documents nor are copies of proof of citizenship verified with source databases, increasing the risk of accepting invalid documents as verified proof of citizenship

From personal experience working as a poll worker in numerous elections, prior to and after Secretary LaRose's directive on accepting proof of citizenship documents at the polls, I personally observed that the BOE failed to train non-citizen identification on drivers licenses. I brought this to the attention of the BOE which responded stating it was not a poll workers function to screen for such demarcation. After a complaint to the SOS, the BOE then started training on non-citizens drivers licenses and added the naturalization paper as additional documentation to verify, yet no additional training was offered to those who had been previously trained. We as poll workers have never seen naturalization documentation; therefore, we could not ascertain authenticity of such.

- To address this issue, I respectfully urge the committee to consider the following amendment to SB153:

Since copies may be easily falsified with modern technology, before acceptance, copies of documentary proof of citizenship (DPOC) must be cross-verified with relevant federal or state databases to confirm authenticity. Temporary poll workers should not be responsible for verifying documents presented as proof of citizenship. Based on my experience as a poll worker, I do not have confidence that **only** citizens will be voting in Ohio if temporary workers are expected to verify something as important as citizenship using only documents – or even copies – claiming to be proof of citizenship. Verification should be conducted by more qualified and properly trained Board of Elections officials or consider it appropriate to add the fact that ANY elector wishing to vote can ALWAYS vote a provisional ballot and provide the documentation to the BOE within the 4 day curing process.

- Thank you for your time and consideration.