



**Opponent Testimony: Senate Bill 4  
Senate General Government Committee  
Jen Miller, League of Women Voters of Ohio  
June 17, 2025**

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

Thank you for your time today. As the Executive Director of the League of Women Voters of Ohio (LWVO), I'm offering in-person opposition party testimony on behalf of 4,000 dues-paying members and volunteers, who live in every Ohio Senate District in the Buckeye State.

The League of Women Voters of Ohio is a nonpartisan organization that was founded over one hundred years ago by leaders of Ohio's women's suffrage movement. Our mission from the beginning was to create more meaningful pathways for newly enfranchised women to become civically engaged as voters, advocates, and elected officials. Since then, we have been a champion of fair, transparent, and responsible democratic systems as well as robust, informed civic engagement among all Ohioans.

We have a long track record of advocacy success. In the 1930s, we began securing improved ballot construction so that all candidates could be treated fairly and secured the adoption of more transparent, fair recounting protocols for close elections in the 1940s. We were one of the first to champion Ohio's bipartisan system of election planning, administration, and oversight, and we ardently supported the independent testing and certification of elections systems including on-demand ballot printers and voter registration systems, which the General Assembly passed last year. Ohio first required post election audits in response to litigation the League brought after the 2004 election. More recently, we supported SB 52, sponsored by Senator Gavarone, that codified and modernized many other aspects of election security.

We are fiercely nonpartisan. We never endorse candidates or parties. Our priority is and always will be voters. We seek to balance public policy goals of secure elections, fair election administration, and access for voters. That is why I stand here on my members' behalf today in opposition to Senate Bill 4.

Senate Bill 4 would increase the authority and capacity of the Secretary of State to investigate and refer allegations of election fraud and voter suppression. One of our concerns is that Senate Bill 4 would give additional authority and capacity to an innately political office. My question to each of you: how would you feel about your arch-rival or even just a member of the opposite party having such broad powers of investigation?

I'm asking you to think about the long-term. At worst, this legislation is giving a green light for one unscrupulous, corrupt individual to investigate, interrogate, and mar the image of political enemies for their own benefit.

We agree that our elections need to be safeguarded. We agree that we want everyone to adhere to all election laws in Ohio. However, we disagree that this is the right solution. We urge you to scrap this legislation, and instead create a bipartisan body of nonpoliticians who will fairly, transparently, and equally ensure that Ohio's elections laws are upheld by everyone.

In a different hearing, a committee member repeatedly referenced "hundreds of convictions" of voter fraud. In reality, voter fraud investigations rarely result in indictments and even fewer result in convictions. But let's talk about this in real numbers. The Heritage Foundation's own elections fraud research shows that fraud is rare in Ohio, documenting fewer than 50 voter fraud convictions in our state since 2000.

In 2024, Larose referred 633 possible cases to Ohio Attorney General Yost to investigate going back to 2008. Out of that, Yost took seven to the Grand Jury. One was thrown out immediately, and six were indicted. Of those six, one was for a man who had been dead for two years, and one was for an older Hudson woman who the court found to be cognitively impaired. We await to hear how the other four cases will proceed legally. Ultimately, Secretary LaRose scoured fifteen years of election data to flag 633 possible cases of fraud, which will result in a maximum of four convictions.

LWVO supports the investigation and prosecution of voter fraud, but I wonder why we are creating more big government for something that is exceedingly rare. On the day of the previously mentioned grand jury indictments, Yost said: "Irregularities like this are rare, and this is a small number of cases. We should all be confident in the upcoming election, knowing that the laws are being enforced and will continue to be enforced."

Just last December, Secretary LaRose announced that the 2024 post election audits found a 99.9% accuracy rate, stating: "Ohioans deserve to know that their elections are transparent, accessible, and accountable...[I am] grateful for the hard work and dedication of Ohio's bipartisan election officials who make it happen."

In addition, we have Governor DeWine, who also served as Ohio Attorney General, stating during the signing of 2022's HB 458 that he has "long believed that Ohio does a good job of administering elections...I do not expect to see any further statutory changes to Ohio voting procedures while I am Governor."

But even if you do feel as though legislation is needed to address this issue through legislation during the 136th General Assembly, we urge you to pause. Elections officials still aren't able to implement all of the Data Act because of technical challenges and/or financial constraints. Boards of Elections still have not been able to review how federal executive orders will impact future federal elections. Rulemaking still needs to be conducted for parts of HB 74 from last session, and there are still open questions about some e-pollbooks that resulted in LaRose suspending their use in about half of Ohio

counties during the May election. Given the amount of changes already afoot, it would be wise to let the dust settle first to ensure that we are indeed passing legislation that addresses real problems through truly effective policies.

You can contact me to discuss this legislation or other good government matters further at [director@lwvohio.org](mailto:director@lwvohio.org) or 614-469-1505.

Thank you.

*The League of Women Voters of Ohio was formed in May 1920 out of Ohio's woman suffrage movement. The League is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.*