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June 16, 2025

Senate General Government Committee

Re: Senate Bill 4

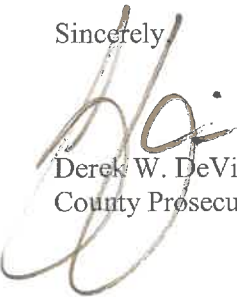
Greetings:

Please allow this to serve as my written testimony on Senate Bill 4 as it relates to the creation of an Elections Integrity Unit. For the reasons stated by the Ohio Prosecuting Attorney Association I am opposed to this measure. Election integrity is very important. However, in my more than seventeen years as county prosecutor we have had no prosecutable cases for violations of election laws. In the small number of cases where a person has voted twice, the voter was mistaken about how a recent relocation from a different state affected his vote or misunderstanding how a provisional ballot works. A few years ago, our Board of Elections had a situation where a voter took his elderly parent to vote and while believing that he had already voted absentee was mistakenly told by the poll worker that he had not voted. He thus voted again.

Local elected prosecutors are able to work with the local boards of elections and if necessary, law enforcement in potential criminal election cases.

I respectfully oppose the empowerment of an Election Integrity Unit.

Sincerely,


Derek W. DeVine
County Prosecutor