



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB4

Presented to
Ohio Senate General Government Committee

June 16, 2025

Beau Euton, *on behalf of*
FGA Action

Chair Roegner, Vice-Chair Gavarone, Ranking Member Blackshear and honorable members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB4, and thank you to Vice Chair Gavarone for introducing it.¹ My name is Beau Euton, and I am here on behalf of FGA Action.

This legislation will codify existing practices to ensure that election integrity is process-dependent and not people-dependent in Ohio. Specifically, SB4 establishes the Election Integrity Unit within the Secretary of State's Office, codifying the great work already being done by Secretary LaRose and his team. The Election Integrity Unit will be required to review complaints raised by citizens alleging a violation of state election law and determine if further investigation or prosecution is needed. SB4 will guarantee that regardless of who holds political office, this work on election integrity will continue.

Importantly, the bill will provide you—Ohio lawmakers—with an annual report of the Election Integrity Unit's investigations, including the laws that were violated, where in the state the crimes occurred, and the outcome of each case. This transparency will allow you to evaluate the effectiveness of Ohio's current election laws and determine if additional safeguards or adjustments are needed.

This solution has been successfully implemented in other states. In 2022, Florida lawmakers created an Office of Election Crimes and Security, which is required to file an annual legislative report.² Since its establishment, this office has released three reports for calendar years 2022, 2023, and 2024.³ The reports have provided Florida lawmakers with important information about how their elections are running, including summaries of the investigations, criminal referrals, resulting convictions, and fines issued to third-party voter organizations.

Just last month, Kentucky lawmakers passed a similar bill that creates the Office of Election Investigations, and it was signed into law by Governor Beshear.⁴ That bill also has legislative reporting requirement, like Florida's statute, and the requirements here in SB4.

Codification of the Election Integrity Unit in Ohio will also ensure that the office does not become weaponized in the future. In Arizona, lawmakers created an Election Integrity Unit in 2019 but failed to clearly define its purpose and requirements.⁵ With the election of Attorney General Kris Mayes and Governor Katie Hobbs, the unit now focuses on increasing voter access rather than investigating violations of election law.⁶

With the creation of the Election Integrity Unit, Ohio will join Florida and Kentucky as the "gold standard" for election accountability and transparency. It will also ensure investigations into election law violations continue to be properly conducted and bad actors held accountable, regardless of who holds elected office. I urge you to support SB4. Thank you for your time and I'm happy to answer any questions.

References

¹ <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/136/sb4>.

² Ibid.

³ Florida Office of Election Crimes and Security, Reports 2022-2024, <https://dos.fl.gov/electionsecurity>.

⁴ KY H.B. 455 (2025).

⁵ Arizona Attorney General, "Election integrity unit," State of Arizona (2023), <https://www.azag.gov/criminal/eiu>.

⁶ Rick Hasen, "Arizona's new attorney general to use election fraud unit to boost voting rights," Election Law Bog (2023), <https://electionlawblog.org/?p=134401>.