



TESTIMONY

CREATE ELECTION INTEGRITY UNIT

Senate Bill 4

Tuesday, June 17, 2025

TESTIMONY BEFORE

OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Senate General Government Committee

TESTIMONY BY

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Chairman Roegner, Vice Chair Gavarone, Ranking Member Blackshear, Jr., and distinguished members of the General Government Committee:

I am honored to submit this testimony in strong support of **Senate Bill 4**, a crucial piece of legislation that reinforces Ohio's position as a national leader in election integrity. Ohio has long been recognized for its commitment to secure, transparent, and accessible elections, and this bill further strengthens the safeguards that protect our democratic process.

As a former Secretary of State here in Ohio, I know first-hand the challenges to fair and transparent elections are always changing. Those of us charged with the duty and obligation to give our citizens in the Buckeye State the best elections have to remain vigilant, and I'm proud the Secretary of State, the Attorney General, and the State Legislature is taking this pro-active action.

Our state has established robust voter registration protocols, bipartisan election oversight, and advanced cybersecurity protections for voting systems. Additionally, Ohio's commitment to post-election audits and transparent reporting has earned national recognition as a model for election integrity.

Senate Bill 4 builds upon this strong foundation by codifying the **Election Integrity Unit** within the Office of the Secretary of State. This unit plays a vital role in investigating and addressing election law violations, ensuring that any misconduct is swiftly identified and prosecuted. By formalizing this unit, Ohio is taking proactive steps to safeguard the integrity of its elections and maintain public trust in the electoral process.

In addition, this legislation also tackles several other key election integrity priorities including:

- **Prosecutorial Authority:** which would allow the Attorney General of Ohio to prosecute violations if local prosecutors are inactive for 12 months, with the same powers as a prosecuting attorney. This could lead to more uniform enforcement across Ohio's 88 counties.
- **Codifying the Secretary of State's duties** to oversee the Election Integrity Unit, report violations, and maintain existing election administration responsibilities.
- **Enhanced Voter Confidence Measures** by implementing additional safeguards to protect voter registration data and prevent fraudulent activity in the electoral process.

Public confidence in elections is the foundation of a healthy constitutional republic. By enacting Senate Bill 4, Ohio is taking decisive action to reassure voters that their ballots are protected and that election outcomes reflect the will of the people.



Senate Bill 4 is a necessary and forward-thinking initiative that strengthens Ohio's position as a leader in election integrity. By codifying the Election Integrity Unit, enhancing enforcement mechanisms, and implementing additional voter protection measures, this legislation ensures that Ohio's electoral process remains one of the most secure in the nation.

I urge the Ohio General Assembly to support Senate Bill 4 and continue Ohio's legacy of election integrity.

