

I am writing to express my dismay at the proposed bill SB153 which is unnecessary and harmful. As Secretary of State Frank LaRose has repeatedly stated, Ohio has a 99.9% accuracy rate in general post-election audits. Why would Ohio mess with an already good thing? And why is this bill being brought up again (as it was in May) during an election season when the staff members at our Boards of Elections are unable to respond or to provide their testimony?

I am registered to vote in Columbus and have lived and voted here for over 30 years. I found it relatively easy to update my registration when I moved and have voted without any problems. Others, though, like my elderly mother, who lack a passport or any birth certificate will not have an easy time. These preponderantly rural voters may just give up and not vote thus losing their rights as citizens to have their concerns matter.

I am also a poll worker, with several years of experience volunteering on Election Day to help facilitate voting. In that time, I have been incredibly impressed with how smoothly and professionally the local Board of Elections manages to run our elections. The men and women who make our elections run so well are hardworking, courteous, professional, and extremely careful to adhere to all election laws. They work very hard for us. We should be grateful to every one of them. Instead, this bill proposes to pile more work and responsibility on top of their already heavy workloads. SB 153 will effectively result in a number of unfunded mandates that simply pile more responsibilities and challenges on top of our already overworked election staff.

SB 153 would additionally force local BOEs to investigate so-called compensated petition circulators and would impose other hardships on local volunteer election workers. It would require that volunteer election workers be the ones on the front lines telling frustrated voters that their forms of ID are no longer acceptable and that they have to vote provisionally. I, for one, did not sign up to do that kind of policing. I want to make it possible for all registered voters to have their say on local, state, and federal issues. I will quit if I am asked to serve as a policing force. I cannot support this kind of thoughtless imposition on the BOE officials and on ordinary citizens like myself who just want to do our civic duty.

Governor DeWine has said that the legislature already imposed drastic changes to the elections laws and there should be no more changes during this term. SB 153 promises enormous changes and the bill is very harmful. I urge the legislature to think through all the consequences of this bill. Otherwise, you will hurt your own voters.

Please do not pass this very damaging bill. I urge you to think this through carefully.