

SB 153 Opponent Testimony

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The democratic process in Ohio is forever under attack. SB 153 is the most recent attempt to rewrite Ohio's election laws. The bill changes over 40 sections of Ohio law governing voting and elections and creates 3 entirely new sections. These changes make it harder for eligible Ohioans to register, harder to vote, harder to collect petition signatures and places extreme bureaucratic and financial burdens on county boards of elections. If passed, SB 153 will intimidate civically active Ohioans by threatening petition committee members and circulators with politically motivated investigations. New requirements will make it more onerous to collect ballot initiative signatures. Further stymying efforts of Ohio citizens to civically engage.

Illegal voting by non-citizens in Ohio, and across the country, is exceptionally rare and statistically insignificant. You know this. This is nothing but a brazen partisan attempt at voter suppression. This bill will make it harder to register and cast a ballot for many eligible voters; especially married women, young people, and the less affluent. That voters will face prosecution if they fail to respond, within 14 days to a confirmation notice sent in the mail is an utterly ridiculous act of government overreach. This attempt at discouraging eligible voters from engaging in one of their most basic yet most important civil rights is reprehensible.

SB 153 will result in a huge number of unnecessary provisional ballots cast. It adds a mountain of tedious and unnecessary administrative tasks, without increasing funding. Boards of elections will be forced to take on direct costs and increased needs for hiring and training to perform added recordkeeping, list maintenance, provisional ballot processing and petition validation mandates in the bill. SB 153 also bans drop boxes, adding another road block to the voting process while increasing work for election workers. Road blocks to voting seem to be the purpose of this bill. Please vote NO on SB 153!