

10.27.25 - SB 153 Opponent Testimony

Chair Roegner, Vice Chair Gavarone, Ranking Member Blackshear, and members of the Senate General Government Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Lindsey Wyckoff. I am a marketing and communications professional who grew up in North Canton, Ohio. As someone who is an advocate for democracy, I am strongly opposed to SB 153.

This legislation is unnecessary and eliminates equitable opportunities for ALL Ohioans to have access to voting - a fundamental right in our democracy.

The bill changes over 40 sections of Ohio law governing voting and elections and creates 3 entirely new sections – all to make it harder for eligible Ohioans to vote and harder to collect petition signatures, while at the same time placing impossible bureaucratic and financial burdens on our county boards of elections.

SB 153 creates an arduous process for verifying citizenship that would end up preventing tens of thousands of eligible Ohio voters from casting a ballot – especially married women, young people, and the less affluent. In my previous professional role, as well as my current one, the organizations I work for are trying to close disparities related to access to resources and information every day. People living in poverty or less affluent areas would have increased barriers to access to exercising their right to vote. If you *truly* believe in all Ohioans participating in our elections, then you will oppose this legislation.

Experience shows, when states implement proof of citizenship requirements, eligible voters are impacted: Kansas tried it but reversed course after finding 12% of eligible voters were unable to register. (see article: <https://apnews.com/article/kansas-noncitizen-voting-proof-of-citizenship-50d56a0b8d1f0fde15480aab3db67f4f>)

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote *NO* on this unAmerican and unOhioan bill. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

With gratitude,

Lindsey Wyckoff
North Canton, OH