

October 27, 2025

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 John Zajc. I am a US and Ohio citizen who is deeply concerned about the state of Democracy in Ohio and in America. I have been voting for over 40 years and have never given a thought to “proving” I have a right to vote. Now, after 40+ years, I need to provide additional documentation? Needless to say, I am strongly opposed to SB 153.

SB 153 is a solution in search of a problem. Non-citizens already are not allowed to vote and the current process and procedures in place at the county board of elections and the Secretary of State catches the extremely rare instance (7 Ohio cases since 2014) where a non-citizen does vote. Why would a non-citizen risk their livelihood in America in order to vote? It makes no sense whatsoever.

It is also incredibly misogynist. The patriarchy has ingrained the tradition of a woman taking her husband’s name when getting married. But this bill penalizes that practice by creating hurdles for anyone with a new name to vote under the new requirements.

It is fiscally inefficient. County Board of Elections, who all do an amazing job will have their workload needlessly increased while not receiving any additional funding. They will have a ton of busywork that does nothing that current practice doesn’t already do – identify illegal ballots of all types.

If this bill becomes law it says to Ohioans in no uncertain terms -- **your voice does not matter; Ohio is an autocracy, not a representative democracy.**

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote NO on this un-American bill.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

John Zajc, Cleveland Heights