

Testimony in opposition to Ohio SB 153.

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

I am deeply concerned about this very large unfunded and unnecessary set of rules that will disengage Ohio voters from all counties and make it harder for them to do their civic duty to vote.

In making Ohioans prove their citizenship when registering or updating voter registration, Senate Bill 153 would end voter registration drives, leaving thousands more Ohioans to make extra trips to the BMV or BOE. Even lifelong Ohioans who may have lost their birth certificate due to flood or other disaster, but have changed addresses, would have to go through a more intensive process to register to vote.

This includes:

- Anyone whose name was changed after birth, including married women who changed their surnames (84%).
- Anyone who needs to update their voter registration address.

Why are you making it harder to vote? We already know that the number of illegal voters is miniscule and often in error.

Why would you end online and mail voter registration?

In Secretary of State Frank LaRose's own words, "Statewide results show a 99.99% accuracy rate in the 2024 General Election." And "As required by federal and state law, Ohio has a robust voter list maintenance program to ensure accurate voter registration records."

He said the 2020 election had a 99.98% accuracy rate.

This voter suppression is also an unfunded mandate on elections staff.

In 2022, 1 million Americans registered or updated their voter registrations, **with only 6% doing it in person**. Reducing it to Ohio, SB 153 could send an additional 18,800 people to go in person to Ohio Boards of Elections.

Similar laws were tested in other states. In Kansas, it was struck down because it prevented eligible voters from registering.

Please reconsider most elements of SB 153 as unnecessary and anti-voter.

I request that you vote it down in committee.

Thank you.

Claire Wagner
Cincinnati