

Senate Bill 153

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

Thank you for allowing me to testify. My name is Sheryl J. Doggett. I am a 71-year-old female who has lived in Ohio since 1994. I believe that elections should be done so that all registered voters (white, black, brown, Asian, young, elderly, and disabled) are able to cast their vote. Then the people have spoken, not one subset of the citizenry. I have worked as a Precinct Election Official in Lucas County for years. I am strongly opposed to the below parts of Senate Bill 153 for reasons stated.

When I worked as a Precinct Election Official, we often had people with Parkinson's whose signature no longer matched what was on record. I was told by the Board of Elections that just updating their registration would not update their signature because signatures do not update, only addresses update. So, for those who need to make sure their signature matches what is on their BMV driver's license or state ID, this won't work.

The voter confirmation notice. Prosecuting someone for failing to respond to the voter confirmation notice is a bridge too far. First, those notices look like junk mail or spam. I am genuinely surprised anyone responds to them. Second, with the mail delivery system as it is, it's very likely many voters do not get the confirmation notice. I have never received one.

Banning drop boxes. Without drop boxes, it is impossible to assure absentee ballots will arrive to the BOE in the time allotted. The BOE cannot mail absentee ballots until after voter registration is closed, which is 30 days before the election date. Where I live, it takes 2-3 weeks to get mail. The only way to get absentee ballot to the BOE on time is to take it there. Remember that the elderly and disabled often cannot stand in long lines to deliver their absentee ballot to the BOE. Banning drop boxes would disenfranchise the elderly and disabled.

I am asking that you vote no on Senate Bill 153.

Sincerely,

Sheryl J. Doggett
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