

I urge Ohio legislators to reject SB153. SB153 attempts, through intimidation of petition circulators and unneeded signature requirements, to limit the citizen petition process which has been the process citizens can use to make sure the will of all citizens is heard. This is a vital tool to counter minority rule gerrymandered by any party.

SB153 process to verify citizenship creates unnecessary barriers to voter registration and casting a ballot, especially for married women, young people and the less affluent. The threat of prosecution is intimidation. The bill places an impossible unfunded burden of Boards of Election.

In my experience as a Precinct Election Official, I have observed firsthand the process the Boards of Election uses to safeguard the voting process. The Ohio accuracy rate for the 2024 Senate race was 99.997% and for local races 99.996%. The current system works. I oppose SB153.