

614-843-9270
MLYNKOHN.147@GMAIL.COM

MARILYN KOHN

133 E. BEECHWOLD BLVD.
COLUMBUS, OH 43214

October 27, 2025

Senate General Government Committee
Ohio Statehouse
1 Capitol Square
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to oppose SB 153, a bill that makes it much harder for eligible Ohioans to vote and effectively shuts down our opportunities to participate in direct democracy.

Governor DeWine has expressed distaste for signing additional election laws that make it harder to vote. In fact, at a Columbus Metropolitan Club function on May 8 he stated that "The burden of proof is on those who say we need to change the law. When I signed the last reform bill I said, as far as I am concerned, we are done."

Given that Secretary of State Frank LaRose has consistently stated that Ohio elections are safe and secure, describing them as "honest and accurate," it is clear that SB 153 is unnecessary and a waste of lawmakers' time. LaRose's words confirm that SB 153 would only serve to disqualify many thousands of Ohio voters or require them to vote provisionally with additional requirements to be met before their vote is counted. The minimal instances of voter fraud in our state have no effect on election outcomes, but the barriers to voting in SB 153 would likely affect who is elected to federal and state offices. I expect that is their purpose.

Requirements for ballot initiatives under SB 153 are equally offensive. The supermajorities in Ohio's legislature don't reflect the will of the majority of Ohioans. Slamming the door on direct democracy in our state holds us captive to the whims and priorities of Republican leadership. This must not happen.

Most Sincerely,

Marilyn Kohn

