

Testimony re SB153

Ohio Senate General Government Committee

October 28, 2025

I strongly protest against SB 153, which is deeply undemocratic. It will make it harder for eligible Ohioans to vote and harder to collect petition signatures and place impossible bureaucratic and financial burdens on our county boards of elections.

SB153 attempts to intimidate civically active Ohioans by threatening petition committee members and circulators with politically motivated investigations and places picky new requirements that make it harder to successfully gather enough signatures for a ballot initiative.

SB 153 makes it harder to register and cast your ballot. It creates an arduous process for verifying citizenship that would end up preventing tens of thousands of eligible Ohio voters from casting a ballot – especially married women, young people, and the less affluent.

SB 153 overloads our local Boards of Elections with unfunded mandates and new requirements while giving them zero additional support

The bill adds a mountain of tedious and unnecessary administrative tasks, without increasing funding.

SB 153 bans drop boxes, which places a burden on voters, especially handicapped voters, while also increasing work for the boards of elections.

Thanks for your consideration!

Sincerely,

Christy Backley
415 Bond Pl 12C
Cincinnati, OH 45206