

Dear Members of the Committee:

As an Ohioan who believes firmly in the constitutional principle of one person, one vote, I cannot remain silent while Senate Bill 153 threatens to strip away that right. **This legislation is not reform—it is a direct attack on democracy itself.**

This bill creates barriers to the ballot box that will fall hardest on marginalized and minority voters. By banning ballot drop boxes, you are deliberately stripping away one of the most secure, convenient, and trusted tools that Ohioans have used to cast their vote. For working families, seniors, rural residents, and people without reliable transportation, drop boxes are not a luxury—they are a lifeline. **To ban them is to choose voter suppression over voter participation.**

Equally troubling is the requirement that every minor discrepancy between Bureau of Motor Vehicles records and Board of Elections records forces a voter to cast a provisional ballot. Anyone who has ever moved knows that the BMV issues nothing more than a flimsy slip of paper when you update your address—it is not a new license. Are we really going to tell tens of thousands of Ohioans that their slip of paper isn't good enough and that they must gamble their voice on a provisional ballot, which all too often gets thrown out? In November 2024, over 34,000 provisional ballots were rejected in Ohio. SB 153 would make that number skyrocket.

And then there is the gross imbalance of power and responsibility this bill creates. County Boards of Elections are already running on shoestring budgets, doing extraordinary work with limited resources. SB 153 piles on an avalanche of new administrative burdens—tedious, costly, and unfunded. You are demanding the impossible from our local election officials without giving them a single dime more to accomplish it. **That is not oversight—that is sabotage.**

The right to vote should never depend on how much red tape a citizen can cut through, how many hoops they can jump through, or whether their BMV slip matches a database entry to the letter. **This bill flies in the face of democracy itself. It silences voices, it undermines trust, and it tells everyday Ohioans their vote is disposable.**

I urge you—reject SB 153. Protect Ohioans' constitutional right to vote. **Preserve the integrity of our elections not by limiting access, but by expanding it.**

Thank you,

Sherry Rose  
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