

**Citizen Testimony regarding SB 153  
27 Oct 2025**

This legislation would throw thousands of law-abiding American citizens off Ohio's voter rolls and create bureaucratic and financial burdens on our county boards of elections *for no reason!*

I am a PEO and know first-hand that Ohio's elections are secure, as the Secretary of State has stated unequivocally for years. Because I am patriotic, I also often volunteer to register voters in the community. I have found that non-citizens are quite forthcoming in declining to register because they tell me straight away that they are not citizens. Non-citizens voting is a red herring.

SB 153 would create a complicated process for verifying citizenship that will prevent tens of thousands of eligible Ohio voters from casting a ballot – especially married women, young people, and working people. When Kansas tried a similar measure they found that 12% of eligible voters were unable to register.

The bill's requirement that anyone with mismatched data between Boards of Elections (BOE) and Bureaus of Motor Vehicles (BMV) to cast a provisional ballot is unacceptable. This is onerous, unfair, adds more layers of bureaucracy.

The provision requiring voters to respond within 14 days to a confirmation notice sent in the mail or face prosecution seems to criminalize voting and simple errors. Further, BOEs will be forced to take on the direct costs and increased needs for hiring and training to perform the arduous recordkeeping, list maintenance, provisional ballot processing, and petition validation mandates in the bill. SB 153 does not add support for its provisions to the BOE.

The banning of drop boxes is just idiotic. Will you also ban mailboxes? Or require armed guards at all post offices?

As if all this is not enough, SB 153 attempts to intimidate civically active Ohioans by threatening petition committee members and circulators with politically motivated investigations; it would also enact onerous new requirements that will make it harder to successfully gather enough signatures for a ballot initiative.

SB 153 is a fever dream of authoritarians in the Ohio Statehouse: an attempt to criminalize many simple procedures of voting. This is a low point in our democratic republic. It should be resoundingly defeated.

Respectfully submitted by

Debra Shankland  
Brecksville 44141

Deb.shankland@yahoo.com