

October 27, 2025

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

Re: Opposition to Senate Bill 153

Dear Chair Roegner, Vice Chair Gavarone and Committee Members:

I write to strongly oppose Senate Bill 153, which would make voter registration and participation significantly harder without improving election security.

SB 153's proof-of-citizenship requirement and restrictions on registration methods would create unnecessary barriers for eligible Ohio voters—especially students, rural residents, seniors and married women. Many of these voters face challenges obtaining or matching required documents, traveling to county boards of election offices, or curing discrepancies on short deadlines.

By eliminating or limiting community registration drives and online registration updates, the bill would also suppress civic engagement among first-time voters and those with limited access to transportation or technology. Women who have changed their names, older voters without current IDs, and rural Ohioans with long travel distances to state offices would be disproportionately affected.

The bill would also make Ohio's citizen-led petition process more difficult by adding new bureaucratic and verification hurdles. These changes would effectively block citizen initiatives and referendum efforts. Adding more detailed procedures as a basis for rejecting petitions, including if paperwork for a circulator is not properly filed, if the circulator's badge is missing, or if a signature form is flawed, does not help Ohioans participate in the democratic process. These requirements should be rejected in their entirety.

Importantly, SB 153 does not enhance election integrity. Noncitizen voting is already illegal and exceedingly rare in Ohio. Instead of protecting our elections, this bill would burden Boards of Elections without providing additional funding thereby potentially weakening our election process. True election security means ensuring every eligible Ohioan can register and vote confidently and conveniently. SB 153 moves us backward.

I urge the committee to **vote NO on SB 153** and focus instead on policies that expand access, improve voter education, and strengthen—not restrict—our democracy. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Lynn Miller