

October 27, 2025

Members of General Government Committee

Regarding S. B. No. 153 Require citizenship verification before an elector may vote

Thank you for taking time to read my concerns about OH S. B. No. 153, perhaps better known as the S.A.V.E. Act.

The way the suggested bill is currently written, it seems that having to appear in person to verify citizenship places an extreme hardship on young voters, everyday working voters, elderly voters, disabled voters, rural voters, voters who change their residence or their names, etc. Actually every voter!

The bill's attempt to prohibit noncitizens from voting, goes overboard, penalizing those who ARE citizens and follow the rules, but have little time and/or ability to appear in person to "prove" citizenship, ensuring that names match exactly.

My research shows very few noncitizens attempt to vote, contrary to what legislators might think. Noncitizens do not take the risk of doing so and finding themselves charged with such a crime. They know the laws and the consequences.

In this digital age, the Committee must agree that voters do so much of their "business" on line, especially the younger generation...whether it be shopping, banking, investing, bill paying, registering for events, etc. Why would the Committee support a bill that requires "personal attendance" to register to vote? Our state should want more people to vote legally, not discourage them from voting with requirements that seem archaic.

Further, the citizen led ballot initiatives process seems to be placed under attack by this bill. Perhaps that is being done purposefully? Again, citizens should be encouraged to participate in the entire voting process, not discouraged, or worse persecuted, as this bill indicates.

I urge the Committee to review this bill closely and not bring it to a vote. There are too many flaws in this proposal.

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