

Testimony of Mimi Plevin-Foust
Regarding SB 153
Senate General Government Committee
October 28, 2025

Chair Roegner, Vice Chair Gavarone, Ranking Member Blackshear, and members of the Senate General Government Committee:

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Mimi Plevin-Foust. I am a parent, home owner, taxpayer, and patriotic Ohioan who is desperately worried about our country's future and whether we'll have a functioning democracy, economy or health system left to leave to our children and grandchildren. These concerns make me doubly shocked by the anti-voter and anti-American policies in SB 153. I strongly oppose this anti-democratic, unneeded, cruel, and punitive bill.

Voter fraud by non-citizens is vanishingly rare, almost always the result of a simple voter or election worker mistake. The national SAVE Act which is the equivalent of this bill, was never brought up for a vote by the Senate because they wisely realized it would not only disenfranchise millions of voters, but would likely harm Republican voters more since at least 10% more Republican married women change their names than Democratic married women. SB 153 will disenfranchise tens of thousands of law-abiding Ohio voters. Why?

For example, my husband and I are American citizens who vote in every election, yet SB 153 would likely force us to spend hours chasing documents and changing our names or be disenfranchised. Both of us (perhaps foolishly) hyphenated our names together when we got married many decades ago. Yet our different IDs still have all different names. My voter records include my nickname - Mimi - although my birth name, passport and driver's license show my legal first name which is different and my hyphenated last name (also on my driver's license), but not on my Social Security card. My husband's voter registration does not show his married last name although his driver's license might.

According to the Election Law Journal's recent article, "The Cost of Voting in American States: 2024", Ohio was ranked *45th out of 50 states in terms of ease of voting (four spots lower than we were in 2022), in other words, in the bottom six out of all 50 states* (<https://www.liebertpub.com/doi/full/10.1089/elj.2024.0037>). A law like SB 153 will undoubtedly sink Ohio to a shameful 50th place—even below Mississippi.

A vote to pass this cruel and punitive bill out of committee is a vote against Ohio voters and American democracy at a time when we may lose our democracy altogether.

Please consider my testimony and vote *NO* on this dangerous and un-American bill. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

