

November 3, 2025

I am opposed to the Ohio Legislature contemplating what is yet another threat to allowing Ohio voters to have their votes counted. I agree with the Ohio Voter Rights Coalition and their Action Alert regarding Senate Bill 293 (SB293), a bill aimed at closing the four-day post-election period for accepting mailed ballots. It is my understanding this bill is moving very quickly in the Senate General Government Committee. I am opposed to this bill and the action it would take. I would like to submit this as my written testimony to the Senate General Government Committee.

It is my understanding that less than two years ago, the Ohio Legislature decided to shrink the window for accepted mailed ballots from 10 days to four. I was opposed to that legislation at that time. I am seriously concerned that Ohio is now faced with yet another possibility of closing the window altogether at a time when the US Postal Service is proving to be even less reliable.

I am concerned this bill will throw out valid votes. More than 9,500 ballots were received during the November 2024 four-day post-election window (source: Ohio Absentee and Early Voting Dashboard). Ballots that are properly filled out, postmarked on time, and mailed by the legal deadline would be discarded simply because of postal delays. Voters would then be punished for something completely outside their control: the speed of the mail.

Being a rural Ohioan myself, this bill will especially harm my neighbors and I. Rural Ohio voters have slower mail routes which means longer delivery times. Ohio seniors and Ohioans with disabilities may vote by mail because it is often the only option for these voters. Ohio voters without reliable transportation, Ohioans living in poverty and students who may not have their own vehicle would also be disproportionately impacted negatively by this bill.

Ohio's current system works well. Ohio election law already requires mail-in ballots to be postmarked on the day before Election Day. The existing 4-day acceptance period doesn't extend the time Ohio voters can cast a ballot, it is simply a mail delivery window to ensure ballots from eligible voters are properly counted.

Ohioans must be able to trust their mailed ballots will be counted. Of the more than 2.6M Ohioans who voted before Election Day last November, 803,253 (31%) of voters placed their trust in the U.S. Postal Service as their preferred method of ballot return (source: Ohio Absentee and Early Voting Dashboard).

Please count me on the record as strongly opposing this bill. I do not want any piece of legislation which attempts to limit the lawful voting of Ohioians. Please vote no on SB293.

Respectfully,

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