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October 30, 2025

Chair Sharon A. Ray and Members  
Ohio General Government Committee  
77 S. High Street  
Columbus, OH 43215

Re: Opposition to Senate Bill 293 — eliminating the 4-day grace period for absentee ballots

Dear Chair Ray and Members of the Committee,

I write to urge you to oppose Senate Bill 293, which would require all absentee ballots to be physically received by the county board of elections by the close of polls on Election Day in order to be counted. The bill would eliminate the current rule that allows ballots postmarked by Election Day to be received and counted if they arrive within a four-day window after Election Day. I believe this change will disenfranchise lawful voters without making elections measurably more secure. [Ohio Legislative Information System+1](#)

First, Ohio already has extremely low levels of proven voter fraud. Secretary of State Frank LaRose's own referrals and public statements show that alleged incidents are vanishingly rare relative to the millions of ballots cast. For example, reporting on LaRose's referrals found that of hundreds of incidents flagged in past years, fewer than 3% resulted in charges — a vanishingly small fraction of overall votes. LaRose himself has acknowledged that instances of illegal voting represent only a tiny fraction of total ballots cast. [Ohio Capital Journal+1](#)

Second, mail-in and absentee voting in Ohio has established safeguards and processes that make it secure and auditable. County boards of elections use signature verification, chain-of-custody procedures, and canvassing to validate absentee ballots; Ohio's absentee-voting system has been routinely described by election officials as safe and reliable. Removing the post-Election Day window would undermine—rather than improve—both access and the ability of election officials to process and cure ballots properly. [Ohio Secretary of State+1](#)

Third, imposing a strict received-by-Election-Day rule would disproportionately harm voters who do not use in-person voting options: overseas U.S. citizens, members of the armed forces serving abroad, and students temporarily living out of state. Federal law (UOCAVA and the MOVE Act) requires protections for uniformed-services and overseas voters and directs election officials to send ballots early; these voters often rely on the postal system and U.S. Election Mail procedures to return ballots. USPS and federal programs support election mail, but delivery times—particularly for international or military mail—remain outside the direct control of individual voters. Tightening the deadline would risk discarding valid ballots that were timely mailed but delayed in transit. [Federal Voting Assistance Program+1](#)

Fourth, there are real operational concerns about the reliability and predictability of mail delivery (including international and APO/FPO/DPO routes). Election officials and advocates have repeatedly warned that shortening or eliminating reasonable cure and receipt windows would make it harder for legitimately cast ballots to count, especially for military and overseas voters and for Ohioans who depend on the Postal Service for ballot return. News coverage and veterans' organizations have expressed concern that changing the deadline would harm those groups who already face special voting challenges. [Ohio Capital Journal+1](#)

I share the committee's interest in secure elections. However, SB 293 addresses the wrong problem and threatens to disenfranchise lawful voters who followed the rules and timely mailed their ballots. If the Committee is focused on election integrity, please pursue solutions that:

- Strengthen signature-matching training and transparency for county boards (so cure processes are consistent and fair). [Ohio Secretary of State](#)
- Invest in timely ballot processing and clear public guidance about deadlines and postage for overseas voters (in line with UOCAVA and MOVE). [Federal Voting Assistance Program](#)
- Improve communication between election officials and voters so ballots that can be cured are identified and fixed before certification deadlines.

Finally, I am deeply troubled by the political rhetoric that attacks mail-in voting wholesale. I do not understand why our President—and those who echo him—continue to argue against mail-in ballots when independent reviews and state officials show mail and absentee voting are secure. Elected officials who took an oath to defend the Constitution should be protecting every lawful citizen's right to vote, not proposing rules that risk depriving citizens—especially military members and overseas Americans—of that right. [Ohio Capital Journal+1](#)

For these reasons, I respectfully request that you vote NO on SB 293 and instead work on targeted, evidence-based reforms that improve security without disenfranchising voters.

Thank you for your service and for considering my views. I am available to answer any questions or provide further information.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]