

11-17-2025

Chairwoman Roegner, Vice Chair Gavarone, Ranking Member Blackshear, and members of the Senate General Government Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on Senate Bill 107.

I strongly urge you to pass Senate Bill 107 to bring honesty and transparency to Ohio's school board elections.

For too long, Ohio voters have been kept in the dark. Candidates run with no party label on the ballot, yet we all know these races have become intensely political. Curriculum battles, pronoun policies, mask mandates, and billion-dollar levies are decided by school boards—yet the ballot pretends politics does not exist.

While campaigning in the last few Ohio local school board elections, my experience has been overwhelmingly that voters want to know the party affiliations of their local school board candidates.

In the 2025 cycle, I have watched groups and teachers' union PACs pour hundreds of thousands of dollars into "nonpartisan" races while hiding behind friendly-sounding names like "Friends of Education." Meanwhile, local party organizations and grassroots parents have to play by different rules. Voters deserve to know, at a glance, which candidates share their values and which ones are backed by the same unions that fight school choice and legislation such as SB 107, which provides needed transparency to Ohio voters.

SB 107 does not force anyone to run with a party label—candidates can still run as independents or with no label. It simply ends lacking transparency. If a candidate wants the endorsement, volunteers, and infrastructure of a political party, voters should see that on the ballot.

Our children's education is far too important. Requiring party designation will give parents and community tax payers clearer choices, reduce the influence of hidden money, and make school board members more accountable to the voters who elected them.

Please report SB 107 favorably out of committee and pass it this session. Ohio families are counting on you.

Thank you for your time.

Kathy Boff