



S.B. 191 - Delivering for America Act

Dear Chairman Coley, Ranking Member Craig, and members of the Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee:

Secure Democracy strongly supports passage of Senate Bill 191 in its current form. This bill will modernize Ohio's election system, reduce administrative costs, and make voting by absentee ballot easier and more accessible for voters. In a world where Americans can conveniently and securely go online to purchase goods and services, share personal information, and manage their finances, there is no good reason why they shouldn't be able to request a ballot online as well.

As currently drafted, S.B. 191 would allow any eligible voter to request an absentee ballot via a secure online portal administered by the Secretary of State. Voters would be required to submit the same information that is required in the [paper forms](#) currently used in Ohio. The bill maintains all existing election security measures and imposes no additional barriers on voters.

Online ballot request options are overwhelmingly popular. A [May poll of Ohio voters](#) conducted by Public Opinion Strategies shows that 78% of Ohio voters support the creation of a secure online ballot request system.

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Similar systems have been successfully popping up all over the country. Several states including [Kentucky](#), [North Carolina](#), and [Georgia](#) rolled-out online ballot request portals for the first time in 2020. Each of these states implemented online request systems with support from both Republicans and Democrats, and their adoption helped mitigate the administrative burden on election officials who had to accommodate millions of new absentee voters.

Many election administrators in these states are now seeking to make the changes permanent. In a [survey](#) of county clerks conducted by Kentucky Secretary of State Michael Adams, 89% supported



making the absentee ballot request portal a permanent fixture in Kentucky's elections going forward.

In Ohio, by contrast, county boards of elections were forced to [scramble](#) in the run up to the 2020 general election in order to process the unprecedented volume of paper ballot applications, and several counties incurred additional expenses to hire extra staff and order more paper products.

S.B. 191 is a simple, elegant solution to improve and modernize Ohio's election system. It saves money, maintains election security, and makes voting by mail more convenient. Its passage would be an unmitigated win for both voters and taxpayers.

Sincerely,

Sarah Walker
Vice President of Advocacy
Secure Democracy