

Testimony In Support Of S.B. 191
Ohio Senate Committee on Government Oversight and Reform
Submitted By:
Andrea R. Yagoda

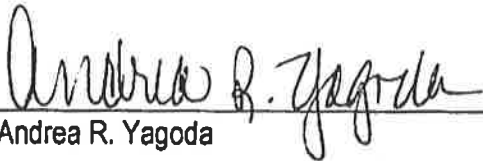
Chairman Coley, Vice Chair Huffman, and members of the Committee, thank you for allowing me to present this testimony in support of SB 191. I am speaking to you today as a private citizen.

This past election I attended public meetings of the Delaware County Board of Elections and by did I learn a lot about the election process and how hard those employed at the Board of Elections work to ensure that we have safe, and fair elections, to promote voting and to work to make sure every vote counts. At one point I believe, if memory serves me right, that there were approximately 1,000 absentee ballot applications which had been rejected. Many were for things like a missing birth date, which the voter had just missed on the form. In every instance, the BOE contacted the voter either by email, phone call and followed up with a written letter. Needless to say this took a bit of manpower. If we had an online application for an absentee ballot missing information like one's birthdate would be caught right away as the program would notify the voter of the missing information. This would save time and energy on behalf of our BOEs plus the cost of postage, envelopes, etc.

Further, I also spent time assisting the elderly and even younger voters in obtaining an application for an absentee ballot. Many voters do not have access to a printer. These voters have several options. The first request a friend who does have access to a printer to print it out for them. Two, travel to the BOE and retrieve one and complete while there and third call the BOE and request they send one. All of this could be alleviated by providing an online application for an absentee ballot.

This bill gives voters a great option and relieves some of the burden on the County Boards of Elections. Ohio has a great voting system but there is room for improvement and this bill provides a great step to modernizing our system and working to achieve a gold voting standard.

I urge this Committee to vote in favor of this bill.


Andrea R. Yagoda