



OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

State Representative Thomas Hall

Thank you Chair Gavarone, Vice-Chair O'Brien, and Ranking Member Maharath, for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on HCR 5 - HCR 5 is the Ohio General Assembly's opportunity to reject Washington DC's unconstitutional over-reach. This resolution will urge Congress not to adopt House Resolution 1, which has passed by the U.S. House of Representatives but is in committee in the United States Senate.

Article I, Section 4 of the U.S. Constitution states that "the Times, Places and Manner of holding Elections for Senators and Representatives, shall be prescribed in each State by the Legislature thereof," but that "Congress may at any time by Law make or alter such Regulations, except as to the Places of choosing Senators."

Our founding fathers made this provision in the Constitution to ensure Congress cannot seize control of the state's election system like H.R. 1 does. Stripping the states of their constitutionally mandated election authorities is an unprecedented overreach from the federal government.

In our own state of Ohio, a state whose elections have long been under the microscope of the nation, we have developed a system that has ensured voters have confidence in the outcome of our elections. Voter fraud and voter suppression are exceedingly rare. The efforts put forth just in recent years by our Secretary of State Frank, LaRose, have strengthened the security of our elections and have become a national model. States are even coming to us to learn our best election practices so they can mirror them back in their states.

On November 3, 2020, Ohio executed our most successful election in history. Voter turnout for our state was a record-breaking 74 percent with 5,974,121 Ohioans casting a ballot. This surpasses the all-time previous record from 2008 by 200,000 votes. Early and absentee voting increased by 75 percent compared to 2016 figures. 94 percent of all absentee ballots were returned, breaking another state record. Despite the challenges the COVID-19 pandemic presented, Ohioans made their voice heard through our state's election process. Once again verifying, Ohio knows how to run a successful election.

Over 800 pages in length, H.R. 1 legalizes ballot harvesting, forces states to count ballots that arrive by mail as late as 10 days after the election, bans state voter ID requirements, and includes the opportunity to make Washington D.C. its own state. These provisions will erode voter trust and create a lack of confidence in results, thus inciting chaos and confusion to our elections process.



OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

State Representative Thomas Hall

In conclusion, I stand before you today to say this. Our resolution will affirm the Ohio General Assembly's duty to carry out elections the constitutional way. I thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony today, and will now take your questions.