

**Proponent Testimony**  
**Senate Bill 194**  
**Ohio Association of Election Officials**

Chairman Wiggam, Ranking Member Kelly and members of the House State and Local Government Committee:

My name is Michelle Wilcox. I am Director the Auglaize County Board of Elections and president of the Ohio Association of Election Officials (OAEO). OAEO is the bipartisan association that represents Ohio's 88 county boards of elections. I am pleased to offer our association's support for Senate Bill 194 and thank Senator Rulli for his work on this legislation.

SB 194 is very straightforward. It changes the name of the Ohio Board of Voting Machine Examiners and expands that board's purview to include the certification of voter registration (VR) systems. Both changes are common sense and reflective of how elections have modernized over the years.

The first modification merely changes the name of the Ohio Board of Voting Machine Examiners (BMVE) to the Ohio Board of Voting Equipment Examiners. This is consistent with the purpose and mission of the Board which has, for several years now, examined and certified more than just voting equipment.

The second change would require voter registration systems to be certified by the Board of Voting System Examiners. Currently, the BMVE certifies voting systems and electronic poll books. The addition of VR systems is both practical and impactful. While voting systems and poll books are important pieces of the elections system, they are only used a couple times a year. Our voter registration system is the

backbone of our information technology systems. A faulty or inaccurate VR system causes issues that ripple throughout the rest of the elections system. Creating a process to test and certify these critical systems will serve Ohio's boards of elections and Ohio's voters well. SB 194 puts in place reasonable and well-established practices that mirror our successful certification program for other elections related technology.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony on SB 194. I would be happy to answer any questions the committee might have.