

Chairman Wilkin, Vice-Chair White, Ranking Member Brown, and members of the House Government Oversight Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 573 –to designate January 25th as "National Poll Worker Recruitment Day" in the state of Ohio.

National Poll Worker Recruitment Day is a national awareness day established by the U.S. Election Assistance Commission to encourage people to help America vote by serving as poll workers. As former members of our County Boards of Elections, we can speak to the vital role these volunteers play in executing safe, secure, and efficient Election Day operations.

Poll workers are critical to the success of an election. Unfortunately, there has been a significant shortage of individuals volunteering for these positions. Having an adequate number of poll workers to staff polling places on and before Election Day can ensure voters receive the assistance they need at the polls and can help provide a positive voting experience for all.

State and local election officials can use National Poll Worker Recruitment Day to kick off recruitment efforts or supplement ongoing recruiting for poll workers in their community. Organizations and companies can support National Poll Worker Recruitment Day by spreading the word, encouraging employees to participate, and offering employees time off to volunteer as poll workers.

Poll worker shortages place a tremendous burden on our County Boards of Elections and the election process as a whole. Bringing awareness to this issue and providing our boards with an avenue to promote the need for election volunteers in their communities will create a significant opportunity to ensure our polling locations have the necessary staffing to allow our elections to run smoothly.

Thank you all for your time – we are happy to answer any questions the committee may have.