Senator Theresa Gavarone
Sponsor Testimony, Senate Bill 320
Senate Local Government and Elections Committee
May 24, 2022

Vice Chair O'Brien, Ranking Member Maharath, and members of the Senate Local Government and Elections Committee, I'm pleased to provide testimony today on Senate Bill 320, legislation that will simply and effectively improve election security across our state.

Senate Bill 320 is a straight forward piece of legislation. It requires that voters show a photo ID when voting in-person. The bill also requires Ohioans who vote by mail to provide their Driver's License or State ID number and the last four digits of their social security number. Alternatively, voters can provide a photocopy of their Driver's License or State ID and the last four digits of their social security number.

Election security should be one of our main priorities. In fact, it is a priority in the minds of the majority of Americans. Polling has consistently shown that requiring photo ID to vote is a popular policy that we want implemented. For example, according to a Monmouth University study from just last year, 4 in 5 Americans (80%) support requiring voters to show photo identification in order to cast a ballot[1].

Additionally, SB 320 provides every Ohioan who is 17 years or older the opportunity to receive a free state ID.

I firmly believe that Ohio runs exceptional elections. However, there are always ways we can improve election integrity, which includes reducing the possibility of election fraud in Ohio. That is why I am here today.

Under current law, one can vote by showing nothing more than a utility bill and signing their name. That simply isn't good enough. Senate Bill 320 provides an easy way to better ensure confidence in our elections. By doing so, we will enhance our election security, increase voter confidence, and maintain accessibility to the ballot box.

I'm happy to testify today and I welcome any questions from members of the committee.

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[1] Public Supports Both Early Voting And Requiring Photo ID to Vote | Monmouth University Polling Institute