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Gary Click
State Representative

Chairman Peterson, Vice Chair Thomas, Ranking Member Humphrey, and members of the House Government Oversight Committee, thank you very much for the opportunity to present sponsor testimony on HB 457, a commonsense piece of legislation designed to streamline the integrity of Ohio’s voter rolls through a citizen-initiated process.

Under current law, when a voter changes their address in Ohio, they are expected to complete Form 10-A (Voter Authorization to Cancel), when they are no longer eligible to vote at their former location.¹ The Ohio Secretary of State’s office has informed me that it is rarely completed. This is not likely due to ill intent but rather a lack of awareness.

As a result, many voters are inadvertently and unknowingly registered to vote in two locations at once. When this occurs, the Secretary of State’s office eventually flags the resulting duplicate, notifying each of the local boards of elections. Once the boards communicate and confirm with one another that the duplicate voter is indeed the same person, the voter’s files are merged into the more recent registration and the previous, now obsolete, is cancelled.²

Although the voter registration rolls are periodically reviewed for the purpose of flagging duplicate, inactive, or deceased voters, HB 457 will streamline the process saving time and money while improving accuracy. While comprehensive data on these obsolete registrations is scarce, the quantity of their occurrence is significant. Secretary LaRose’s office cleaned nearly 27,000 obsolete

¹ www.ohiosos.gov/globalassets/elections/forms/10-a_english.pdf

² Since dropping this bill, it was also brought to my attention that duplicate voter registration also results in a new voter ID for the same individual ultimately providing an inaccurate voter record in the Secretary of States voter database. Further research may be necessary to determine if this bill provides a solution as it stands or if an amendment may be necessary.

88th House District
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registrations from the rolls in [October of 2023](#)³ after already correcting 124,158 eight months earlier in [February of the same year](#).⁴

[According to data from the US Census Bureau](#), in 2022, 197,000 people moved out of Ohio, and another 252,000 moved in.⁵ According to one [source](#), 12% of Ohio's population moved within the state in 2022.⁶ If even a quarter of those people neglected to cancel their old voter registrations, the number of potential duplicates could be in the tens of thousands. House Bill 457 places greater control in the hands of citizens when it comes to maintaining the accuracy of their personal voter registration.

House Bill 457 provides a voter dependent, citizen-initiated resource to streamline the process of maintaining accurate voter rolls in Ohio. Empowering voters to complete two processes at once provides convenience for them while making government more efficient.

Thank you very much for your time; I will now be happy to answer any questions from the committee.

Yours truly,


Gary Click
State Representative
House District 88

³ <https://www.wkyc.com/article/news/local/vote/ohio-secretary-state-frank-larose-purges-nearly-27000-people-voting-rolls/95-5bcc6ca7-ecb0-4c57-8833-2480affdbf6b>

⁴ <https://www.cleveland.com/news/2023/02/secretary-of-state-frank-larose-announces-purge-of-inactive-voters-check-to-see-if-youre-among-them.html>

⁵ <https://www.wkbn.com/news/ohio/252000-people-moved-to-ohio-last-year-where-did-they-come-from/>

⁶ <https://ipropertymanagement.com/research/moving-statistics?u=%2Fresearch%2Fmoving-statistics#ohio>