

**Proponent Testimony for House Bill 472
House Homeland Security Committee
May 20, 2024**

Rose M. Welch-Registered Voter

Thank you Chairman Ghanbari, Vice Chairman Plummer, Ranking Member Thomas and members of the Homeland Security Committee for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 472, the Ohio Votes Count Act.

It's past time for Ohio to strengthen the law to make sure only US citizens vote in Ohio elections. In November 2022, over three million Ohioans voted to amend Ohio's Constitution so that only US citizens should vote.

I usually work the local election polls and am very concerned that we will be unprepared to NOT offer a ballot to an immigrant who has come to the USA illegally and is trying to vote. This is not legal in this upcoming Federal election.

For the first time, Ohio HB472 makes sure every person who registers to vote in Ohio is verified to be a US citizen BEFORE they are put on Ohio's voter registration database. I am thankful for Representatives Willis and Representative Peterson for sponsoring this bill, and look forward to seeing this committee move this bill to the House floor for a vote by all House Representatives.

Although this bill may not be perfect, it is certainly a great start!

Thank you for considering my proponent testimony.

Rose M. Welch