

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

I am a longtime citizen of Delhi and I am very disturbed with how easy it is for non-citizens to get onto the Ohio voter rolls. Currently, our voter roll databases contain both eligible and ineligible persons and that situation cannot be allowed to occur – ever. Every month, over one thousand new non-citizens apply for and receive driver’s licenses/state id’s and federal law requires them to be registered to vote at that time. The only stopgap we have to prevent this is if the person doesn’t sign a form. I have also discovered that when someone registers to vote by going online applying by mail and does not appear in person, there is NO identity verification. NONE! Nothing is safe from identity theft these days. Why is Ohio blind to this reality? These issues are totally unacceptable and we must do better to protect our precious elections!

The Ohio Votes Count Act deals with my apprehensions as an Ohio citizen who wants my vote to count. HB472 requires all applicants have their identities checked and verified BEFORE being added to the Ohio voter rolls. Only persons who are verified to be US citizens would be entered into the voter roll database. And all existing electors in the database would be reviewed weekly. If someone is found to be a non-citizen, they would be required to prove citizenship or would have to remove themselves from the voter rolls and if they did neither of those actions, they would be referred for investigation by a prosecuting attorney. We cannot have non-citizens voting – they are breaking the law.

I want to thank Representatives Peterson and Willis for sponsoring HB472. And I urge you all to, please, support this bill and get it passed.

Thank you for considering my proponent testimony.