

Interested Party Testimony
Ohio Association of Election Officials
Senate Bill 71

Chairman Rulli, Vice Chair Schuring, Ranking Member DeMora and members of the Senate General Government Committee. My name is Aaron Ockerman and I am Executive Director of the Ohio Association of Election Officials (OAEO). I am here to offer interested party testimony on Senate Bill 71. While OAEO supports the goals of transparency and openness that SB 71 promotes, we would like to offer several suggestions which we believe makes the bill more administratively feasible and strengthen some of the provisions related to data security.

Suggestion #1: Clarify when postmarks must be used for voter registrations.

Traditionally, boards of elections use time stamps to record when voter registration forms are received. SB 71 would require the use of postmarks. Although OAEO supports this change and understands the necessity of using postmarks to determine eligibility of voter registrations that are received after registration closes 30 days prior to an election, requiring boards to use a postmark for forms received prior to the close of registration creates an unnecessary administrative burden. Furthermore, doing so does not advance the goals of the legislation to increase voter confidence or eliminate confusion. **Therefore, OAEO recommends that postmarks be used to determine the date of registration for registration forms received after the close of registration and time stamps be used for those received before the close of registration.**

Suggestion #2: Require boards to submit data at 4:00pm.

While OAEO supports standardizing when data is submitted to the Secretary of State, a 4:00pm deadline may inadvertently create inconsistencies in data reporting as boards continue to process and reconcile data after 4:00pm. **OAEO recommends that boards be required to submit data by the close of business each day. Doing so ensures that all data that is submitted to the SOS will reconcile with data recorded at the local level.**

Suggestion #3: Date of birth

SB 71 requires the Secretary of State to publish voters' full date of birth on their website. Typically, for identity theft reasons, boards of elections only share the birth year on our local websites. **We would encourage the legislation to mirror the practice of the locals and make only the birth year available on the Secretary of State website.**

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my testimony. I would be happy to answer any questions the committee may have.