

# Ohio Residents: Senate Sub-Bill 153 is Not Real Election-Integrity Reform

Ohio seniors and families deserve trustworthy elections. But true reform isn't about slogans. It's about **real enforcement, real verification, and real transparency**. Senate Sub-Bill 153, a citizenship verification bill currently under consideration in the Ohio Senate, offers attractive rhetoric but leaves gaping holes:

- **Lack of Citizenship Verification:** The Sub-Bill requires U.S. citizenship verification only for new voters, leaving existing voters unverified. Many individuals were added to the voter rolls under an "honor system," merely by checking a box claiming citizenship. These unverified registrants would remain eligible to vote in Ohio indefinitely unless they update their registration – directly contradicting the bill's intent.
- **Delayed Citizenship Verification Implementation:** Although system updates take time, federal access to citizenship data authorized under President Trump's Executive Order 14248 already enables regular verification of voter rolls through the Department of Homeland Security and other federal databases. Citizenship verification should not be delayed through another election; even repeated verification checks until system updates are implemented are a reasonable safeguard to ensure only U.S. citizens vote.
- **Acceptance of Document Copies without Verification:** Allowing copies of proof-of-citizenship documents to be accepted based solely on visual inspection invites fraud. Copies can be easily altered and lack the security features of original or certified documents. Accepting unverified copies creates risk, exposes potential liability, and erodes public trust.
- **Insufficient Identity Verification:** Although the bill requires new voters with unverifiable identity to vote provisionally, it fails to apply this same standard to existing voters. These individuals may continue voting regular ballots without ever correcting their identity information - leaving a significant security gap.
- **Lack of Local Access to Verification Data:** Restricting access to federal and state voter eligibility data to only the Secretary of State may limit transparency and delay problem resolution. County boards of elections can't verify or fix registration issues without this information, that could lead to delays, inconsistencies, and lower public trust.

Genuine reform means closing the loopholes, not just adding new paperwork or diversionary requirements.

Please email your state senator today, urging them to **oppose** Senate Sub-Bill 153 unless it is substantially strengthened to **require full citizen-verification** (including requiring only U.S. citizens to be added to the rolls), give full access to federal databases, and mandate cross-checks of all voters (not just certain subsets).