

March 17, 2022

Dear Committee Members,

Since the 2020 election, anti-voter extremists have been mobilizing all over the country to erect barriers to voting, but that has not happened here in Delaware. Indeed, in some respects, the First State is moving in the opposite direction with, for example, the passage of automatic voter registration last year.

Common Cause Delaware applauds the introduction of SB 233, a bipartisan bill that would remove barriers to voting. That is, the bill would eliminate the unnecessary and redundant requirement in over 40 Delaware municipalities that voters register separately for municipal elections. It is our position that people registered to vote in Delaware should not have to register twice to have their voices heard in local elections.

Unless a person has been explicitly informed about the double registration requirement, any reasonable person would expect that being registered to vote with the state of Delaware would qualify them to vote in their own town's election. That person would likely be shocked to discover the opposite, when arriving to vote in a municipal election. And by then it would be too late to register.

That double registration requirement is an excellent example of a *barrier to voting*. Since we believe that people should have the freedom to vote regardless of zip code, we urge the committee to approve this bill and hope it will get a speedy hearing on the Senate floor.

Sincerely,

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