



Ohio

Testimony by Mia Lewis, Associate Director of Common Cause Ohio  
To the House General Government Committee  
on Senate Bill 293  
November 18, 2025

Chair Ray, Vice Chair LaRe, Ranking Member Brent and members of the House General Government Committee. My name is Mia Lewis. I'm the associate director of Common Cause Ohio and here today to provide opposition testimony on Senate Bill 293.

At Common Cause, we know that our democracy is strongest and most meaningful when more eligible voters can and do participate. That's why we work to eliminate barriers that keep people from being able to register, vote, and have their voted ballots be counted.

If this Committee wants the same thing – a robust and vibrant democracy – your vote on Senate Bill 293 is a no brainer. This bill would require boards of elections across Ohio to discard thousands of legally voted ballots from local Ohioans that arrived in the four days after the election – **while at the same time waiting to receive and count ballots arriving from Ohioans overseas**. Wow. Just wow.

In November 2024, almost 10,000 ballots arrived in the four days after the election – and were counted without incident. In 2025's off-year, low turnout election, 7,266 ballots arrived in the legal 4-day window and were counted, again without incident. (And we know you remember that the window for ballots to arrive was 10 days just a couple of years ago!)

I've attached a breakdown by county of the number of these properly postmarked ballots that arrived after election day but within the legal window, and you will see dozens, hundreds – even thousands coming from counties in your own districts.

We're talking about thousands of ballots that would have been discarded instead of counted under SB293. Thousands of citizens disenfranchised. Thousands of "missing" votes – more than enough to flip the result in any number of races.

Discarding SOME ballots away that arrive late because of postal delays – while waiting to receive and count others? Purposely disenfranchising thousands of voters for no discernible reason? WHY ON EARTH would this committee even consider something as harmful and disruptive to Ohio's "gold standard" elections?

The sorry truth is that the impetus for this change did not come from Ohio voters – **show me the public outcry calling for voted ballots to be tossed! You can't, because there isn't one.** It did not come from Ohio's hard working, bipartisan elections officials – **they haven't even had a chance to weigh in since they are busy working to certify the current election.** It didn't come as a result of flaws or vulnerabilities discovered in our election system. This bill was not written because something is broken and needs to be fixed: it was written to preemptively bend the knee to Washington DC rather than stand up for Ohio voters.

How should Ohio respond when a politically motivated federal government tries to interfere with Ohio elections? **Simply stated: you should stand up for your constituents and defend their access to the ballot.** You should stand up for the elderly, rural, disabled and working Ohioans who disproportionately rely on vote-by-mail.

SB 293 has moved at lightning speed. What is the rush? Are you trying to get it **right** or get it **done**?

We are often asked, "Isn't even just one instance of a fraudulent vote too many?" Of course. If someone votes in an election when they are not eligible, it could theoretically skew the result. Luckily, this is so vanishingly rare it has not had and could not have had any impact. But just the same, if someone who is eligible to vote – who wants to vote, who **does** everything legally to vote – if they have their ballot cast aside uncounted, isn't that equally unacceptable? What if 10,000 voted ballots are cast aside uncounted? Isn't that rigging an election?

There are many ways to make vote-by-mail safer, easier, and better for elections officials. Increase the number of drop boxes. Include return postage on ballot envelopes. Widen the list of people allowed to return ballots to include friends, neighbors, grandchildren... And of course, lengthen the window in which mailed ballots are accepted. Is Ohio doing any of these things? I'm afraid not. It seems you all are bound and determined to do the exact opposite.

If you care about safe and secure elections, if you care about voters, you will not vote this bill out of committee. Your vote here will show where you stand – for or against Ohio voters.

**Mailed ballots as reported by county Boards of Elections, received during the four-day post Election Day window**

Source: <https://www.ohiosos.gov/elections/voters/ohio-absentee-data/>

	<b>Nov 2024 Total 4-day by Mail</b>	<b>May 2025 Total 4-day by Mail</b>	<b>Nov 2025 Total 4-day by Mail</b>	
Ohio	9,523	4,107	7,266	
		4,107		
Adams	11	not listed	11	
Allen	64	11	41	
Ashland	30	10	2	
Ashtabula	48	23	51	
Athens	36	not listed	50	
Auglaize	30	4	11	
Belmont	21	5	5	
Brown	14	4	1	
Butler	232	77	24	
Carroll	7	4	3	
Champaign	19	3	7	
Clark	70	19	35	
Clermont	not listed	not listed	not listed	
Clinton	11	3	3	
Columbiana	56	20	29	
Coshocton	15	3	11	
Crawford	10	5	4	
Cuyahoga	2356	2350	3358	
Darke	22	0	5	
Defiance	11	5	3	
Delaware	649	138	314	
Erie	70	4	26	
Fairfield	101	1	not listed	

Fayette	not listed	not listed	not listed	
Franklin	794	145	494	
Fulton	16	not listed	22	
Gallia	5	4	9	
Geauga	142	11	41	
Greene	229	45	151	
Guernsey	17	3	12	
Hamilton	869	174	156	
Hancock	30	not listed	2	
Hardin	not listed	6	5	
Harrison	11	3	10	
Henry	14	not listed	2	
Highland	11	4	2	
Hocking	8	not listed	5	
Holmes	not listed	3	4	
Huron	30	1	3	
Jackson	18	3	17	
Jefferson	27	12	15	
Knox	48	7	13	
Lake	235	45	77	
Lawrence	8	28	43	
Licking	27	41	45	
Logan	49	2	15	
Lorain	48	1	76	
Lucas	307	115	201	
Madison	43	9	39	
Mahoning	116	40	80	
Marion	16	4	9	
Medina	183	17	57	
Meigs	not listed	not listed	not listed	
Mercer	20	1	4	
Miami	60	24	19	
Monroe	7	4	4	
Montgomery	362	234	482	
Morgan	15	not listed	1	

Morrow	20	8	21	
Muskingum	1	2	11	
Noble	not listed	not listed	not listed	
Ottawa	39	8	38	
Paulding	6	not listed	5	
Perry	14	not listed	8	
Pickaway	33	5	12	
Pike	1	not listed	not listed	
Portage	179	40	59	
Preble	18	1	4	
Putnam	1	not listed	10	
Richland	56	not listed	19	
Ross	25	4	17	
Sandusky	14	3	7	
Scioto	20	6	36	
Seneca	32	4	5	
Shelby	15	0	7	
Stark	318	56	275	
Summit	515	170	307	
Trumbull	87	37	82	
Tuscarawas	50	19	28	
Union	1	10	19	
Van Wert	18	1	2	
Vinton	4	2	1	
Warren	321	9	65	
Washington	6	not listed	16	
Wayne	60	14	19	
Williams	12	not listed	6	
Wood	not listed	31	78	
Wyandot	9	2	not listed	