

ADVOCACY – Deep Dive

Lists current LWV US and Ohio bills we are advocating for or against and actions you can take.

LWVUS - Positions

Elections and Voting

We support:

HR 14, S4 John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, which would modernize and revitalize the Voting Rights Act of 1965. The Supreme Court has hampered the law through a number of cases in 2013 and 2021. This Act would strengthen the law and help to give equal voting access to all.

- *Explanation:* HR 14, S4 would modernize and revitalize the Voting Rights Act of 1965. The Supreme Court has hampered the law by gutting its pre-clearance provisions in *Shelby County v. Holder* (2013) and by making it harder to sue to stop discriminatory practices in *Brnovich v. DNC* (2021). This Act would strengthen the law guaranteeing equal access to the ballot, including outlawing discriminatory practices.

Ohio Senator J.D. Vance does not support this bill due to “retrogression.” If this bill passes, he says that it would make it easier to sue states or localities that implement a voting rule that is more discriminatory than the rule it replaces.

To TAKE ACTION:

- ▶ **Use this [Quick Action LWV US website](#)** to use your voice. Takes less than 1 minute.
- ▶ Or, write an email in your own words to [Senator Vance](#) to support HR 13, S4

You can cut and paste this paragraph:

As your constituent, I implore you to support the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act! For many Ohioans, it is now harder to register, vote, and have their voices heard equally. This stands in stark opposition to the promise and values of American democracy. Provisions of S4 would allow actions to be taken to protect the voices of our Black and Brown populations who have been most affected by changes made due to Ohio’s HB 458. Of the 700,000 inactive voters in Ohio, 19% are Black compared to the overall voter percentage of 11%. Please support HR 13, S4.

- ▶ Thank [Senator Brown](#) for his support of the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act.

LWV OHIO Positions

Elections and Voting

We oppose:

Ohio SB 137: Generally Prohibits Use of Ranked Choice Voting – prohibits the use of ranked choice voting and withholds distribution of state funds to a municipality or county that uses ranked choice voting.

To TAKE ACTION:

- ▶ Use this [Quick Action Website](#) to send an email. Takes less than 1 minute.
- ▶ Call or email [Senator William DeMora](#) at 614 466-4583 to ask him to withdraw his name from SB137. Tell [Senator Theresa Gavarone](#) at 614 466-8060 that: “this is government overreach and limits access to more inclusive democratic systems. It is also an attack on Home Rule.”

- Example:

“If SB 137 comes to the floor, please, VOTE NO. Senate Bill 137 is government overreach and violates Ohio’s long-standing tradition of home rule. Local governments should be able to continue to make decisions based on local needs and preferences. SB 137 would limit voter choices and financially punish communities for choosing an electoral system that requires candidates to have more than 50% of the votes to win a race.

“Ranked choice voting (RCV) is promising and deserves a chance to succeed. It allows for a fuller expression of voter preferences, forces candidates to appeal to a broader swath of voters rather than a narrow base and promotes bipartisanship.”

We oppose:

Ohio HB 472: Regards voter registration, voting, and voting systems – adds further restrictions to voting procedures (ID's, citizenship, absentee ballot, etc.)

- *Explanation:* Requires that to register to vote or cast an absentee ballot the person must have an Ohio drivers’ license or state ID. The bill also requires that election officials compare an elector’s photo ID with their appearance or a photo on file. If they do not match, they will be required to challenge their right to vote. If unable to verify identification, can require proof of US citizenship to remain registered or to vote. If an absentee ballot is not properly sealed, the vote will not be counted. For provisional ballots, the board of elections must confirm that the voter is a US citizen using BMV records, a government database or a commercial service. The bill introduces other restrictions as well.

EDUCATION

We support:

Ohio HB 147 - Regards teacher licensure revocation, hiring practices, conduct - requires reporting of licensed educational employees who are retiring during a disciplinary investigation and-to be removed from substitute teacher lists.

- *Explanation:* Requires school districts, educational service centers, and chartered non-public schools to file a report with the Superintendent of Public Instruction regarding a licensed employee who retires during a disciplinary investigation for misconduct or has committed an act unbecoming to the teaching profession. Prevents those who left due to misconduct from being re-hired, especially as a substitute teacher.

To Take Action:

- ▶ Send an email or call Education Committee Chair Senator [Andrew O. Brenner](#), 614 466-8086. Ask him to have more hearings and bring this bill to a vote.

LWV Ohio *may support* this bill with certain modifications:

Ohio SB 168: Regards Education Regulation Reform – includes employing more non-licensed individuals as classroom teachers, eliminating standards that trigger the closing of poorly performing charter schools, eliminating additional pay for teachers' overtime, and eliminating giving preference on the basis of seniority when making reductions in nonteaching staff.

- ▶ *Explanation:* Lowers existing requirements for advanced educator licenses, nixes mandatory state-prescribed evaluation systems and expands schools' ability to employ unlicensed people as teachers. Sponsor says it will reduce unnecessary barriers and regulations while helping schools battle teacher shortages.
- ▶ [News Article](#) which has more information
- ▶ *Note:* This bill contains significant problems that must be fixed before it moves forward. Our goal is **NOT to kill this bill**. We want to remove the most harmful pieces of SB 168 before it passes. See list below.

Some of the most **harmful** pieces of SB 168 would:

- Employ more non-licensed individuals as classroom teachers without proper preparation. (This may encourage aspiring teachers to use a pathway that gets them quickly hired but never on track to becoming fully licensed.)

- Eliminate standards that trigger the closing of poorly performing charter schools. See Ohio Code Section 3314.35 [Permanent Closure Criteria](#)
- Let districts require teachers to teach classes outside the normal school day without additional pay.
- Require school districts to ignore seniority when making reductions in non-teaching staff.
- Eliminate a grant program for teachers who hold certificates or licenses issued by the National Board of Professional Teaching Standards ([ORC 3319.55](#))
- Eliminate a parental involvement grant program, administered by the Department ([ORC 3301.134](#))
- Eliminate an annual reporting requirement from leaders of each seminary, academy, parochial, or private school ([ORC 3301.14](#))
- Eliminate the Governor's Effective and Efficient Schools Recognition Program, which recognized the top 10% of schools based on factors such as student and fiscal performance ([ORC 3302.22](#))
- Eliminate the requirement to provide copies of reports to school districts and the public profiling each school building in the district and a public notice requirement related to these reports ([ORC 3301.0714 \(H\)](#))
- Eliminate the requirement that the Department establish a committee to develop report card models for charter schools ([ORC 3314.012](#))

More Ohio SB 168 Resources

- [Here's why the Ohio Education Association opposes SB 168](#)
- [Here's why the Ohio Federation of Teachers opposes SB 168](#)
- [Official SB 168 legislative page](#)

To TAKE ACTION:

- ▶ Since the bill has passed in the Senate, please contact the following representatives. Ask them to fix or remove the most harmful pieces (see list above) of SB 168:
 - Email or call the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee Chair [Rep Gayle Manning](#) at 614 644-5076
 - Ranking Committee Member Rep. [Phil Robinson](#), 614 644-6041_and/or Rep. [Sarah Fowler Arthur](#), Committee Vice Chair, 614 466-1405.

We oppose:

Ohio HB 8: Enact the Parents' Bill of Rights -- to require public schools to adopt a policy of parental notification ~~on~~ regarding student health and well-being and instructional materials with sexuality content. Includes notifying parents if student tells a teacher or counselor that they are gay or trans or other personal and private information they do not want revealed to anyone. This bill is similar to the "Don't Say Gay" law in Florida.

To Take Action:

- ▶ Call or send an email in your own words to your Ohio Senator. If you are in Senate District 27, (Hudson, Stow, Twinsburg, Cuyahoga Falls, Fairlawn) contact [Sen. Kristina Roegner](#), 614 644-4823. Tell her to vote NO because it's a "don't say gay" censorship that will overburden the schools. If you are in District 28 (Akron, Kent, Aurora, Streetsboro, Tallmadge) contact [Sen. Vernon Sykes](#). If unsure who your senator is, find them [here](#).

We oppose:

Ohio HB 183: Regards single-sex bathroom access in schools, universities – Students may only use bathrooms for their sex assigned at birth.

- *Explanation:* The Protect All Students Act requires public and chartered nonpublic schools, educational service centers, and institutions of higher education to designate bathroom, locker rooms, and overnight accommodations for the use of either males or females as indicated on their birth certificate.
- HB 183 forbids trans-females from using the women's facilities or trans-males from using the men's facilities.
- This bill places LGBTQ+ students' safety at risk.

To Take Action:

- ▶ Send an email or call the following and emphasize how difficult and expensive it would be to implement. It could also lead to costly lawsuits if implemented incorrectly.
 - Ohio Senator: District 27, Sen. [Kristina Roegner](#), 614 644-4823. Tell her to vote NO on HB 183. If Sen. Roegner is not your senator find them [here](#).
 - Tell House Speaker Rep. [Jason Stephens](#), 614 466-1366, not to bring HB 183 to the floor.

We oppose:

Ohio HB 339: Establish the non-chartered Educational Savings Account (ESAs) Program – parents of children in grades K-12 can apply for an ESA to be used to pay for non-chartered, non-public schools.

- *Explanation:* The Treasurer of State will administer a program in which parents of children in grades K-12 can apply for an ESA to be used to pay for non-chartered, non-public schools. The program will be administrated with the assistance of the Department of Education.
- Read a [Vox article](#) how ESA's are the new Voucher System.
- Read more about School Vouchers in this [Brookings Institution article](#).

To Take Action:

► Send an email or call the following:

- Ask House Primary and Secondary Education Committee Chair Rep. Gayle Manning 614 644-5076 to stop this bill moving forward. It sends our tax dollars to poorly regulated private and religious schools.
- Ask Committee Ranking Member Rep. [Phil Robinson](#) 614-644-6041, to vote NO on this bill.

TAXATION

We oppose:

Ohio HB 344: Eliminate replacement property tax levies; re: tax complaints

To amend and revise codes to eliminate the authority to levy replacement property tax levies and to modify the law governing certain property tax complaints.

- *Explanation:* Eliminating replacement levies removes another funding tool for school districts, libraries, and local communities. Also makes it harder for school districts to challenge property tax assessments, which impacts funding. Regardless of the levy type placed before voters, current law requires specific ballot language to educate voters. Most recent legislative changes (HB 140 134th General Assembly) require increased communication efforts by townships and other local governments to inform voters about the necessity of a proposed levy and the impact on their tax bills.
- A **renewal levy** extends the term of an expiring, existing levy. A renewal considers the original property valuations at the levy's initial passage. Renewal levies also have reduction factors applied to them due to HB 920. For example, an approved 0.5 mill levy would collect 0.44 mills the following year and 0.42 the year after.
- A **replacement levy** extends an expiring, existing levy. However, unlike renewal levies, a replacement allows a political entity to take advantage of growth and development by considering current property valuation. In other words, it brings the millage effective rate back up to the initially passed millage prior to it being subjected to HB 920 reduction factors. It should be noted that replacement levies do not always increase millage and can even decrease millage.

Watching This Bill. May Take Action Later
