

Voting Rights

Statehouse Day-Wednesday, March 27, 2019

1:30 pm

Moderator- Ann Henkener, Panelists: Aaron Ockerman, Catherine Turcer , Camille Wimbush

Camille: Pleased to be here to give an overview of Automatic Voter Registration reform which is possible for Ohio. It would mean more accuracy in voting registration. What is AVR? People applying for a license at the Bureau of Motor Vehicles would automatically be registered to vote. They could opt out of this. Other places where people would automatically be registered would be Jobs and Family Services. **Why do we need this?** One in four persons now are not registered to vote. Furthermore, written registrations are hard to read and paper work is costly. People move frequently. There is much voter purging now. AVR would solve these problems.

Catherine: Bob Edgar, former president of Common Cause had a saying. It is "We are the leaders that we have been waiting for." This is an important reminder for us. Catherine reviewed the many years that the League worked on redistricting... starting in 1981.. then a ballot issue in 2005, one in 2009, another in 2012. Finally, Ohio passed the required ballot measures in 2016 and 2018. Now, we need to invite people in to participate in democracy. We can do this with online voter registration. AVR is a way to invite people into the process of democracy. Furthermore, there are things we need to do to secure elections, like having a verified automated paper trail. We need transparency. We need to be eyes, ears, maps that reflect our communities.

Aaron: I value the relationships with the League. The number 1 problem right now is the recruitment of poll workers. We are losing poll workers every day but they are the front of democracy. We need 35,000 workers on Election Day. Some solutions are to reach out to high schoolers to help and have Public employees help.

Secondly, we need to have demonstrations of new voting systems and involve as many people as possible in community to help it to work smoothly. Build consensus at the local level. Encourage every board of elections to reach out to the electorate to involve citizens. Always call people to get involved.

Questions

Question: Poll workers now have a long day, why not shifts?

Answer: Ohio law does not allow shifts. Furthermore, it would require twice as many workers as now- 70,000 if there were a split shift.

Question: How can the Board of Elections confirm citizenship?

Answer: BMV verifies citizenship. There are Databases that can verify.

Question: How do people know that they are verified?

Answer: The Board of Election sends a card to voter.

Question: Can the League take voting machines to schools?

Answer: Yes, it can be done. Call board of elections and have a machine delivered.