Democratic Election Reform Bill to Replace HB 194

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PROVISIONAL BALLOTS

Require that poll workers direct voters to the correct polling place

- Allow Boards to use common sense and count ballots where a poll worker made an error.
- Voter error will not be presumed.
- Reduce the number of provisional ballots by allowing voters who change their address or name to cast
 a regular ballot instead of a provisional one. A process of Election Day registration verification and
 notice to the voter's old precinct will ensure accuracy.
- Require the counting of provisional ballots where a voter has signed the affirmation and provided sufficient info to verify the voter's registration.

VOTER ID

- Permit use of College ID as acceptable voter ID. All college ID's issued by Ohio universities, colleges, technical colleges, community colleges, higher learning institutions, etc.
- Permit use of a passport as acceptable voter ID.

NO LITERACY TESTS, NO GOTCHA RULES

- Allow Boards to continue to count votes with clear voter intent. Ballots will not be thrown out for misspellings.
- Prohibit rejection of ballots with stray marks and resting marks, where a voter may have rested their pen on the paper, just because newer more-sensitive scanners can now detect the marks. (Cuyahoga rejects these.)

ABSENTEE VOTING

- Require the counting of absentee ballots where any voter, not just a military/overseas voter, has signed the affirmation and provided sufficient info to verify the voter's registration.
- Permit all voters, not just military/overseas voters, to track their absentee ballot.
- Permit all voters, not just military/overseas voters, to request absentee ballots online or by email.
- Allow election officials to seal absentee ballot envelopes rather than requiring those ballots to be thrown out.
- The ability of boards to mail absentee ballot applications to all voters
- Early voting thru Monday before Election Day

ONLINE REGISTRATION

Provide online registration for all voters.

MOTER VOTER COMPLIANCE

 Require the Secretary of State to work with the BMV to remedy Ohio's failure to comply with Motor Voter. Ohio is out of compliance and that puts federal HAVA money coming to Ohio at risk and causes voter confusion.

CORRECTION OF ERRORS OR OMMISSIONS

 Require board workers when verifying registrations, absentee ballot applications, and provisional or absentee ballot envelopes to contact voters to obtain information that is missing, incomplete, or incorrect on the forms.

HELP FOR LOCAL ELECTION OFFICIALS

- Implement buying pools to help election officials save on election supplies.
- Modernize bidding thresholds for supplies to ease supply procurement for election officials.
- Implement other reforms developed in the HB 260 working group meetings during the 128th GA.