



Ohio Environmental Council
[Action Fund]

Opponent Testimony - Senate Joint Resolution 10
Ohio Senate General Government Committee
June 2, 2026

Good morning, Chair Roegner, Vice Chair Gavarone, Ranking Member Blackshear Jr., and members of the committee. My name is Spencer Dirrig, Vice President of Government Affairs for the Ohio Environmental Council Action Fund. Thank you for the opportunity to provide opponent testimony on Senate Joint Resolution 10.

We work on decisions that shape Ohio's air, water, energy, and land, and every one of them is made by people that Ohioans put in office. We believe in something simple: **unless every eligible voter can cast a ballot and be heard, our government cannot truly reflect the people it serves.** A policy that keeps eligible Ohioans from the ballot does not just burden those voters. It distorts the decisions made in these chambers. That is why we oppose SJR 10, and we are not alone. At the House hearing on its companion, HJR 9, scores of Ohioans and organizations submitted opposition testimony, while no one appeared to testify in support in person.¹

Let me be precise about what this resolution does and doesn't do. SJR 10 does not, **alone**, ban early voting or absentee voting. It takes one method, voting in person on Election Day, and writes a permanent requirement around it into the Constitution. Then, in division (C), it **states that nothing in the section requires the General Assembly to allow Ohioans to vote in any other location or manner.**² Early voting and absentee voting, the ways most Ohioans now vote, are left entirely outside that protection.

This resolution is not neutral about how Ohioans vote. It grants one method constitutional permanence and leaves every other method a "privilege" that a future General Assembly can revoke at will. Senate leadership has been candid on this: the Senate President said nothing in this resolution would prevent the legislature from limiting absentee balloting further.³ He says there are no plans to end early or absentee voting. But plans change, our constitution does not.

*Voter impersonation at the polls is exceptionally rare. A comprehensive national study found 31 credible incidents across more than one billion ballots cast.*⁴ An Ohioan is more likely to

1
2
3
4

be struck by lightning this year than to impersonate another voter at the polls.⁵ This is not a crisis that demands rewriting the Constitution.

The cost of this change is real. Under Ohio's current photo ID law, more than 7,000 ballots were set aside in the 2024 general election because voters could not produce the required identification.⁶ That is 7,000 eligible Ohioans who lost their voice in a single election, and SJR 10 would lock that framework beyond future correction while protecting none of the methods most voters rely on.

In 2024, more than 2.6 million Ohioans, **nearly 45 percent of everyone who voted**, cast their ballots through some form of absentee voting, and it is no partisan loophole: in the 2024 general election, more than 2.3 million Ohioans voted early or absentee, and Republicans used it more than Democrats – Republican-affiliated voters requested roughly 580,000 early ballots to Democrats' 310,000, with another 1.44 million from unaffiliated voters."⁷

They skew older, too, with voters 65 and up requesting more early and absentee ballots than every other age group combined in the 2026 May Primary.⁸ These are retirees who no longer drive, rural residents far from their county seat, and working people in the communities carrying Ohio's heaviest environmental burdens. SJR 10 puts the method nearly half of Ohioans use to vote on the chopping block.

A committee vote is already scheduled for tomorrow at 9 a.m., less than a day after this room finishes testifying.⁹ When the vote is set before the testimony is heard, it is fair to ask whether these voices were ever meant to count. A change to our founding document deserves the time to weigh what citizens come here to say. Rushing it past the public is not a show of confidence. It is the opposite.

The OEC Action Fund urges this committee to reject Senate Joint Resolution 10. A change to our state's founding document should expand and secure the right to vote for every eligible Ohioan, not lock in restrictions while leaving early and absentee voting without any constitutional protection. Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I would be happy to answer any questions.

Spencer Dirrig
Vice President of Government Affairs
Ohio Environmental Council Action Fund
Sdirrig@theoec.org

5
6
7
8
9

Citations

- [1] – WCPO. (2026, May). *Republicans deny 'juicing' votes as they attempt to put already existing law on midterm ballot*. WCPO 9 Cincinnati. <https://www.wcpo.com/news/state/state-ohio/republicans-deny-juicing-votes-as-they-attempt-to-put-already-existing-law-on-midterm-ballot>
(Add the exact publication date once you confirm it; APA wants year, month, day.)
- [2] – Ohio General Assembly. (2026). *Senate Joint Resolution 10, 136th General Assembly*. Ohio Legislature. <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/136/sjr10>
- [3] – WCPO. (2026).
- [4] – Levitt, J. (2014, August 6). A comprehensive investigation of voter impersonation finds 31 credible incidents out of one billion ballots cast. *The Washington Post*. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2014/08/06/a-comprehensive-investigation-of-voter-impersonation-finds-31-credible-incidents-out-of-one-billion-ballots-cast/>
- [5] – Levitt, J. (2007). *The truth about voter fraud*. Brennan Center for Justice, New York University School of Law. <https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/truth-about-voter-fraud>
- [6] – All Voting Is Local. (2025). *The uncounted ballots of 2024: Ohio*. <https://allvotingislocal.org/wp-content/uploads/TheUncountedBallotsof2024Ohio.pdf>
- [7] – Ohio Secretary of State. (2024). *2024 general election absentee voting data*. Office of Data Analytics and Archives. <https://www.ohiosos.gov>
- [8] – Ohio Secretary of State. (2026). *Statewide summary for 2026 May primary/special election*. Office of Data Analytics and Archives. <https://www.ohiosos.gov>
- [9] – Ohio Senate General Government Committee. (2026). *Committee hearing notice: Senate Joint Resolution 10*. Ohio Senate.