



Written Testimony of Chad Ennis
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Senate Bill 4
Ohio House Committee on General Government
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Chairman Ray, members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today regarding Senate Bill 4.

My name is Chad Ennis, and I am the Vice President of Honest Elections Project Action, a nonprofit entity dedicated to defending the right of every American to vote in free and honest elections.

The Election Integrity Unit presented in SB4 will deter incidents of election fraud and increase faith in the electoral process. Too often, credible allegations of election fraud are ignored by law enforcement and prosecutors alike. When that occurs, it sends a powerful signal to the public: our elections are not worth protecting. That should never be the case. Worse still, it fuels the false narrative that election crimes do not occur, undermining trust in the entire system.

Concerns surrounding election integrity are legitimate. The Heritage Foundation's Voter Fraud Database, a non-exhaustive list, chronicles over 1,600 cases of proven election fraud. That includes 63 instances right here in Ohio. Beyond those figures, Secretary of State Frank LaRose has recently identified instances of illegal registration and voting by noncitizens, and potential fraud orchestrated by petition circulators during the 2024 election. The Secretary of State deserves credit for establishing a unit to investigate these crimes and ensure that the integrity of Ohio's elections is secure. Now, it is time to leverage that office's expertise and enact reforms to ensure election crimes will not be ignored or swept under the rug.

Florida created a similar unit in 2022 within the Florida Department of State. Since that time, they have made thousands of referrals to law enforcement resulting in at least 25 felony convictions. Over a thousand referrals were made in 2024 alone and the unit collected more than \$200,000 in civil fines and penalties. Florida's efforts have been a great success and demonstrate what is possible here in Ohio.

Ohioans deserve elections they can trust, and SB 4 contains critical reforms that will bring greater transparency and accountability to the process. From groundbreaking legislation that banned foreign funding in ballot measure elections to the creation of a dedicated election integrity unit, Ohio is a national leader in election reform. Now, with SB 4, you have the chance to strengthen the Election Integrity Unit ensuring greater safeguards to the voting and initiative processes. I encourage you to swiftly pass this measure.

Thank you for considering this testimony, and I welcome any questions you may have.