



Written Testimony of Jason Snead
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Senate Joint Resolution 10
Ohio Senate | State General Government Committee
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Chair Roegner, Members of the Committee: Thank you for the opportunity to testify today in support of SJR 10. My name is Jason Snead, executive director of Honest Elections Project Action, a nonprofit group dedicated to preserving free and fair elections.

I was born and raised here in Ohio and am proud to return and offer my strong support for SJR 10 to enshrine voter photo ID in the Ohio Constitution. The public deserves to know that people who show up to vote are who they claim to be. And there is no better way to do that than to require a photo ID to vote. That is what we require in so many other contexts: for example, boarding planes, buying beer, checking into hotels, or getting government assistance. It is so commonsense it is hard to believe it has not *always* been required to vote.

And yet, prior to 2023, Ohio allowed a person to vote using nothing more than a utility bill. HB 458 brought true photo ID requirements to this state, thanks to the commitment and leadership of lawmakers like Sen. Gavarone. That was a hard-won victory, and it should be protected.

After all, states can and do backslide. Virginia lawmakers repealed the state's photo ID law in 2020. You can now vote in Virginia without showing any form of ID whatsoever, not even a utility bill—you simply sign a piece of paper attesting to your identity and vote. Voter ID is every bit as popular there as it is in Ohio, but it was still eliminated. SJR 10 would give the people the chance to give Ohio's law the maximum possible protection by placing it in the constitution.

Despite frequent attempts to cast voter ID as controversial or even discriminatory, polling clearly shows that public opinion overwhelmingly favors ID laws. A [Gallup](#) survey from October 2024, for example, showed 84% support for a requirement that all voters show photo ID to vote. [Polling](#) by HEP Action showed even higher support—88%—with nearly 70% of the public strongly favoring these requirements. Time and again, polling shows overwhelming support from Republicans, Independents, and Democrats alike across racial, income, and age groups. In other words, voter ID laws are neither controversial nor partisan. Voters *expect* strong photo ID requirements.

Opponents of these laws offer grim predictions of mass disenfranchisement, but there is no data—none—to support those claims. A study published by the [National Bureau of Economic Research](#), for example, found no evidence that voter ID laws depress turnout. It is easy to see why. Identification is ubiquitous, and Ohio makes IDs free to anybody who needs one but cannot afford it. In fact, states with strong ID laws tend to see strong turnout. Georgia, for example, saw record turnout in the 2022 general election after enacting a strong ID law.



The fact is, voter ID laws boost confidence in elections. A [study recently published](#) by Professor Christian Fong with the University of Michigan found that both Republican and Democratic respondents were significantly more likely to view elections as legitimate when voter ID laws were present.

Ohio is hardly alone in seeking to enshrine voter ID requirements in your constitution. Arkansas, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, and Wisconsin all have constitutional provisions on voter ID. And voters in at least four states—California, Nevada, North Carolina, and Oklahoma—will decide voter ID constitutional amendments this year.

I urge you to advance SJR 10 and send this critical measure to the ballot. There is nothing more fundamental to election security than voters proving they are who they say they are. Ohio lawmakers have enacted one of the strongest photo ID laws in the nation. The people of Ohio deserve the chance to enshrine this law in the constitution.