

Human Rights Committee

2022 Resolution

1. Darrell Lausche- 795- Chair
2. Mona Al-Huyani- 250
3. Dan Reinhart- 250
4. Jacqueline Washington- 250
5. Julie Dull- 4595
6. Katy Hess- 1080
7. Stephanie Henderson- 279
8. Justin Willis Sr.- 279
9. Chandra Gardner- 1520
10. Sonya Thacker- 1520
11. Kimberly Toben- 1520
12. Thomas Luvison- 279-R
13. Carolyn Pavel- 795
14. Corin Fonseca- 1080

RESOLUTION REAFFIRMING THE NEED TO MAKE VOTING ACCESSIBLE TO ALL ELIGIBLE VOTERS IN OHIO

1 WHEREAS, voting is a right guaranteed to American citizens by the United States Constitution;
2 and
3

4 WHEREAS, voting is a foundational right of democracy; and
5
6

7 WHEREAS, in an interview with The Daily Record on January 14, 2021, Ohio Secretary of State
8 Frank LaRose stated, “I think we ran the most successful election we’ve ever had. You can
9 quantify that. You can show that in numbers,” in response to the November 2020 General
10 Election; and
11
12

13 WHEREAS, despite the level of security declared by the Ohio Secretary of State, HB 294
14 (Election Modernization and Security Act) was introduced in the Ohio House of Representatives
15 on May 6, 2021, by sponsors Republican State Representatives Bill Seitz of Cincinnati and
16 Sharon Ray of Wadsworth; and
17
18

19 WHEREAS, HB 294 allows only 1 ballot drop box location in each of Ohio’s 88 counties,
20 reduces the amount of time drop boxes are available to 10 days before an election day, shortens
21 the absentee ballot request deadlines from 3 days before an election to 10 days before, cancels
22 early voting the Monday before an election, imposes a 3- tier identification system, prohibits
23 prepaid postage on absentee ballots, and requires the disqualification of ballots not sealed in 2
24 envelopes; and
25

26 WHEREAS, these measures would mostly affect seniors, students, military personnel, low-
27 income residents, and rural communities in negative ways; and
28

Human Rights Committee

2022 Resolution

29 WHEREAS these measures ignore population density and/or the proximity to the county board
30 of election, therefore

31
32 BE IT RESOLVED, the Ohio Federation of Teachers (OFT), strongly opposes all attempts at
33 restricting any eligible Ohio citizen's access to the ballot box, including HB 294; and

34
35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the OFT will advocate for legislation and policy changes that
36 make voting more secure and accessible to all eligible Ohio voters, regardless of political party
37 affiliation, race, religion, gender, gender expression, sexual orientation, etc. including, but not
38 limited to:

- 39 a. Improving access for senior, student, low-income, and rural Ohio voters by allowing
40 counties to have multiple drop boxes and multiple early voting centers.
- 41 b. Adopting Agency Voter Verification and Registration (VVR), thereby improving the
42 accuracy of voter rolls by automatically registering and updating registration for eligible
43 citizens when they interact with state government agencies, unless they opt out.
- 44 c. Passing legislation regarding online absentee ballot requests and permitting voters to
45 submit online absentee ballot applications.
- 46 d. Securing voter registration systems, reducing the likelihood of registration errors that
47 would disenfranchise voters, providing Ohioans the confidence that their registrations are
48 secure and accurate, and giving county boards of elections the tools to carry out their jobs
49 effectively and efficiently; and

50
51 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, the OFT reaffirms that voting is a fundamental right of all Ohio
52 citizens and will continue to promote voter participation through all communication outlets
53 currently available.

54