

**Testimony on House Bill 224**  
**Peg Rosenfield**  
**League of Women Voters of Ohio**  
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The League of Women Voters believes in making the ballot as accessible as possible to all qualified voters. Therefore, we support House Bill 224. However, we cannot but note that while HB224 embraces increased participation and seeks to remove barriers to military voting, the election bills THAT have been under consideration by the legislature will erect barriers and discourage participation by many Ohioans. Our laws should facilitate voting not just by the military but by all Ohioans of voting age.

Similarly, we suggest that this bill be expanded to provide procedures for addressing emergencies that may arise that affect all Ohio voters.

It is my understanding, that when Hurricane Andrew hit Florida a week before election day, they wasted several days before they figured out who had the legal authority to declare an emergency and postpone the election. Ohio may not have hurricanes, but we do have tornadoes, floods, and fires that can make it impossible to conduct an election. Ohio needs to clarify who can declare an emergency in a given area or in the whole state for election purposes, and who has authority to prescribe emergency election procedures.

This bill may not be the proper vehicle for dealing with this issue, but it is an issue that is a ticking time bomb, as Florida so painfully learned.

Thank you and I will be happy to answer questions.