



Ohio  
**COMMON CAUSE**  
*Holding Power Accountable*



Ohio Voter Rights  
Coalition



**COHHIO**  
Coalition on Homelessness  
and Housing in Ohio

AMERICA **VOTES**

MIAMI VALLEY  
**VOTER** PROTECTION COALITION

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Oct. 18, 2016

**Contacts:**

Camille Wimbish [[headshot](#)], Ohio Voter Rights Coalition: [614- 454-1262](tel:614-454-1262)

Catherine Turcer [[headshot](#)], Common Cause Ohio: [614-579-5509](tel:614-579-5509)

Carrie Davis [[headshot](#)], League of Women Voters of Ohio: [614-469-1505](tel:614-469-1505)

Maria Bruno [[headshot](#)], America Votes, [mbruno@americavotes.org](mailto:mbruno@americavotes.org)

**Voter Advocates Reassure Voters that Ohio Elections are Fair,  
Urge People with Concerns to use Ohio Election Protection Hotline**

COLUMBUS -- Voter advocates reassured voters on Tuesday that Ohio's election system is secure and urged Ohioans to use the toll-free Election Protection Hotline if they encounter any voting-related issues.

**OHIO ELECTION  
PROTECTION** **YOU  
HAVE THE  
RIGHT TO  
VOTE**  
**HOTLINE UPDATE**



**1-866-OUR-VOTE** ■ [www.866OurVote.org](http://www.866OurVote.org) "We want to reassure voters that Ohio has many layers of safeguards built into our voting process to make sure it is fair and accurate.

Don't allow the naysayers to undermine your faith in democracy. Have your say by voting," said Carrie Davis of the League of Women Voters of Ohio. "We do not expect voters to encounter problems whether voting early or on Election Day, but, if you do, that is why we have the Election Protection hotline standing by to help - just call 866-OUR-VOTE."

Recently, concerns about the potential for elections to be "rigged" has been raised in the context of the US Presidential campaign, and election officials of all political backgrounds - including Ohio Secretary of State Jon Husted - have strenuously defended the integrity of our election system.

"Voters should be reassured that Ohio has bipartisan election administration," said Catherine Turcer with Common Cause Ohio. "Like Noah's ark, poll workers go two by two; one Democrat and one Republican. There are built in safeguards like voter identification and signature match. The voter verified paper audit trail on touch screen voting machines provides protection as well. The name of the candidates rotate position with each precinct and there is an audit following the election."

Still, the intensity of this year's election has left many voters with questions, said election law expert Camille Wimbish, of Ohio Voter Rights Coalition who provides answers through the Election Protection Hotline.

"The hotline won't tell you who to vote for. But we can answer all kinds of questions about the mechanics of voting in Ohio," Wimbish said. "With more voters opting to vote early, we're getting a lot of calls about when to vote, where to vote, how to vote and what kinds of ID voters need to bring."

"Claims that the election process is rigged are not only false, they are destructive to democracy," said Maria Bruno, Director of Voter Protection Program for America Votes. "Donald Trump and Mike Pence's attempt to fan the flames of racism is inexcusable and a scramble to slow their steep drop in the polls. We all have the right to a voting process free of suppression or intimidation, and in an election where minority voters have unprecedented influence, we need to make sure that all voters can exercise their voice at the ballot box."

Voters are not expected to encounter problems whether voting early or on Election Day, but those who do are urged to call the Election Protection at 866-OUR-VOTE. Volunteers will be available to assist with any voting-related questions or problems that arise during Ohio's early voting period, which started Oct. 12 and runs through Nov. 7. The hotline will also be operating during Election Day on Nov. 8.

Ohio voting advocates joined forces with the national, nonpartisan Election Protection coalition to provide live assistance for Ohio voters throughout the four-week early voting period that started on October 12.

Voters can call **866-OUR-VOTE** ([866-687-8683](tel:866-687-8683)) toll-free from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. EDT on Election Day. Spanish-speaking voters may seek bilingual assistance through the **888-VE-Y-VOTA** ([888-839-8682](tel:888-839-8682)) 6:30 a.m. EDT to 10:30 p.m. EDT. Assistance is also available in a variety of Asian languages through the **1-888-API-VOTE** ([888-274-8683](tel:888-274-8683)).

Frequent questions from voters range from the location of the early in-person voting sites across the state to inquiries about when they will receive absentee ballots in the mail. While the Election Protection hotline is national, calls from within Ohio during Early Vote will be routed directly to volunteers based in Columbus.

[Election Protection](#), the nation's largest nonpartisan voter protection coalition, led by the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, is working in partnership with Ohio groups such as Common Cause Ohio, League of Women Voters of Ohio, the Ohio Unity Coalition, Ohio Voice and the Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio to staff a hotline to answer questions about the state's early voting process.

Ohio Election Protection will post periodic updates on questions or issues identified by OhioVoters in Twitter. Look for our logo or go to [#VoteEarlyOH](#).

A list of questions and answer can also be found on the League of Women Voters' [How do I know Ohio's election is secure?](#)