



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF OHIO**

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TO: Members of the Senate Education Subcommittee
FROM: League of Women Voters of Ohio
SUBJECT: Student Voting in HB59
DATE: Tuesday, April 23, 2013

We are appalled to learn of reports that a provision has been inserted in the budget bill that will make it more difficult for students at Ohio universities to exercise their right to vote. This language in the substitute budget bill is:

“(E) The rules of the chancellor for determining student residency shall grant residency status to a student to whom a state institution of higher education issues a letter or utility bill for use as proof that the student is a qualified elector in this state.

“Nothing in division (E) of this section shall be used to grant residency to a student for any purpose other than for state subsidy and tuition surcharge purposes.”

The claim that this is intended only to allow students to pay less tuition is too clever by half and does not even pass the straight-face test; it is obviously meant to penalize any university that attempts to provide the identification required for their students to exercise their right to vote. This is especially egregious as the state provides less funding to its universities.

We urge the members of the Education Subcommittee to delete this outrageous attack on the right to vote, and send the message that Ohio encourages all citizens to participate fully in their government.

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