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League of Women Voters of Ohio on Governor DeWine's Signing of SB 293

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Columbus, Ohio— Today, Governor Mike DeWine signed Senate Bill 293, the unnecessary and destructive legislation rushed through Ohio's General Assembly in November.

The League of Women Voters of Ohio is deeply disappointed by Governor DeWine's decision to sign legislation that makes it harder for eligible Ohio voters to vote and have their votes counted in Ohio.

"Hundreds of thousands of Ohioans across the political spectrum rely on voting by mail. This new law is going to be especially hard on seniors, Ohioans with disabilities, rural Ohioans, and students," said Jen Miller, League of Women Voters of Ohio Executive Director. "Voters should not be punished because of slow mail delivery days."

"Election workers across Ohio give their time, skill, and professionalism to run accurate and accessible elections," Miller continued. "This law makes their work harder and does nothing to make our already secure elections stronger. The provisions added at the end will lead to voters being mistakenly removed from the voter rolls and a dramatic increase in voters having to vote using provisional ballots, which makes election workers' jobs harder and longer lines for everyone on Election Day. Voters deserve policies that support smooth, efficient election administration, not unfunded mandates that serve no one."

Lawmakers should be focused on strengthening Ohio's election infrastructure and encouraging more Ohioans to participate in our elections, not creating new obstacles. Instead of adding unfunded mandates, the General Assembly should prioritize legislation and budget support that help Boards of Elections do their work efficiently, securely, and transparently. Ohio's election officials continue to run highly trusted elections, but they cannot do more with less.

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The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan, grassroots organization working to protect and expand voting access and ensure everyone is represented in our democracy. To learn more about the League of Women Voters of Ohio, go to www.lwvohio.org.

Empowering voters. Defending democracy.

