



Representative Dave A. Dobos

10th House District

Chair Peterson, Vice Chair Thomas, Ranking Member Humphrey, and members of the House Government Oversight Committee, thank you for allowing me to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 2, which delays the deadline for a major political party to certify its presidential and vice-presidential candidates for the 2024 general election.

Existing state law is very clear on when major party candidates must be nominated and certified to be on the Ohio ballot.

Consider the implications of the current situation. Due to the timing of this year's Democratic National Convention, Ohioans may not have the option to vote for President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris in November. As a state that often has been a battleground, it is unacceptable to risk a major party candidate being excluded in the Buckeye State.

House Bill 2 presents an opportunity to resolve this issue for the 2024 general election. It is a simple, straightforward bill that states that a major political party shall certify to the Secretary of State in writing the names of its candidates for president and vice-president nominated at its national convention not later than the sixty-fifth day before the 2024 general election. Once the nomination is received, the Secretary must certify the forms of the official ballots to be used at the 2024 general election no later than the sixtieth day before that election.

As of today, Ohio is one of only two states where President Biden would not qualify to be on the ballot this November. Unfortunately, this isn't the first time we have had to deal with the certification deadline and convention dates not aligning. This body has instituted a temporary fix in previous years, much like I am proposing today, for presidential candidates of both major parties. Although we cannot predict the future, this inevitably will happen again, and we cannot say which party will be affected by it next.

We should ensure that every Ohioan who exercises his right to vote has the opportunity to support the candidate of his choosing.

I encourage my colleagues to support this legislation and act quickly to ensure that all Ohioans can exercise their constitutional right to vote for their preferred candidate for President and

Vice President. Thank you again for the opportunity to give sponsor testimony on House Bill 2. I am happy to answer any questions you may have at this time.