

The Voice

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HB 194 could stop SB 5 repeal

On July 1, the Governor signed HB 194 (the Voter Suppression Bill) into law. Provisions in this bill require a picture ID to vote and target how and when Ohio voters can engage in early in-person and absentee voting. A statewide referendum effort is currently underway to eliminate this damaging, disenfranchising legislation.



The bill cuts early in-person voting to 14 days with no evening, Saturday afternoon or Sunday voting. HB 194 also shortens absentee voting from 35 to 21 days. For the past several years, multiple county boards of elections, including Franklin County, sent unsolicited absentee ballot request forms to all registered voters. Now, all of Ohio's registered voters must request an absentee ballot from their county's board of elections. Return postage on the absentee ballot will have to be paid by the voter. Additionally, full social security numbers would have to be provided on absentee and provisional ballot ID envelopes.

Under this law, poll workers would not have to tell voters they are in the wrong precinct; and if they are, their vote won't count. The law eliminates the provision that allowed 10 days after the election for the opportunity to provide additional information for provisional ballots to be counted. Long lines of voters would be banned from interfering with nearby businesses.

According to research conducted during the 2008 Presidential election by James Carville's Democracy Corps, early voters are disproportionately female, urban-dwellers, African American or self-identify as strong Democrats. More than 350,000 voting-age Columbus residents out of Columbus' 2010 census population of 787,000 could be directly affected by HB 194.

HB 194 could deny the right to vote to thousands who do not have the limited identification accepted and would disproportionately affect low-income, disabled, racial and ethnic minorities, college students and the elderly. Under the new law, Ohioans could only vote with an Ohio driver's license, an Ohio state ID card, a military photo ID or a U.S. Passport.

If we fail to collect the required 231,000 registered voters' signatures by Thursday, Sept. 29, HB 194 will become law and could severely undermine a "NO" vote on Issue 2. If you collected SB 5 petition signatures and want to help with our fight against the Voter Suppression Bill, you can pick up a petition at the CEA office, workdays from 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m. You can also stop by the CEA office and sign a petition. Contact Tracey Johnson at CEA (253-4731), or email her at tjohnson@ceaohio.org, if you have questions.

Retesting teachers

Ohio's budget bill (HB 153) was signed into law on June 30 and contained a provision entitled, "Retesting teachers." This very small section of the law could have a large effect on Columbus educators. Under the bill, in any year in which a building of a school district, community school, or STEM school is ranked in the lowest 10 percent of all buildings based on its performance index score, the building's classroom teachers must retake all exams required by the State Board of Education for licensure to teach the subject area and grade level taught by the teacher. This requirement applies to all teachers of reading and English language arts, math, science, foreign language, government, economics, fine arts, history or geography.



This law is one of many changes that have been signed into law through the budget but will not be affected by the Issue 2 referendum process. The Ohio Department of Education reports that they will be working in the coming year to develop guidance for schools on how HB 153 is to be applied. ODE has not decided whether the test will be the Praxis III or some other measure. The teacher retesting provision of HB 153 will not take effect until the 2012–13 school year. At that time, ODE will be initiating a new school ranking system (also required by HB 153) which is currently under development.

One thing about the law is very clear—"No teacher shall be responsible for the cost of taking an examination." And, the CCS administration is required to bargain with CEA any changes in terms and conditions of employment that are affected by this bill.

When interviewed by *The Columbus Dispatch* last week about this new law, CEA President Rhonda Johnson said, "The tests won't measure teacher effectiveness, and they won't help anyone improve. The real beneficiary of the retesting law will be the testing company. Keep weighing the pig. Let's not feed him anymore. Let's not do anything but weigh the pig and see if anything changes."

CEA member Greg Mild testified in front of the Senate Finance Committee on June 1 in an effort to have this provision removed from the bill. To access his 23-page testimony, go to <http://bit.ly/pb9ml8>. Just as CEA members mobilized in the spring to flood our legislators with phone calls and emails as we educated them about Senate Bill 5, we need to let our collective voice be heard again with informed opposition and a request for the teacher retesting provision to be removed from the law.

It's hard to believe

Sunday, Sept. 11, marks a decade since the major attack on the United States that destroyed the World Trade Center and killed 2,977 Americans in New York, Pennsylvania and Virginia.

That day is Patriot Day, first set aside in 2002 to mark this tragic time. The coming weeks are a good time to remind each other, and our students, not to forget what we, as Americans, lost that day. Many of our students are too young to know the details. You can use Patriot Day to tell them that:



Most Americans refer to the day as "Nine-Eleven (9/11)" or as "September Eleventh." On Sept. 11, 2001, four planes were hijacked. The hijackers then deliberately flew three of the planes into two important buildings, the Pentagon in Washington D.C. and the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center in New York. The fourth crashed into a field near Shanksville, Pa. The loss of life and damage that these hijackings caused form the biggest act of terrorism ever on United States soil.

On Sept. 11, the American Flag is flown at half-staff. We also observe a moment of silence at 8:46 a.m., the time the first plane struck the North Tower of the Trade Center.

The annual Patriot Day is also a call to community service, so that we may appreciate each other and do what we can to help improve our communities.

SB 5/Issue 2 repeal training

The Columbus Education Association has scheduled two training sessions for CEA and CEA-R members on the plan to repeal Senate Bill 5/Issue 2.

Join your Association at the OEA building, located at 225 E. Broad Street, on Saturday, Sept. 10 from 9–11 a.m., or on Sunday, Sept. 11, from 1–3 p.m. Parking is available at the CCS parking lot located at 270 E. State St. CEA will provide refreshments and a small token of appreciation to members for participating.

CEA was successful in helping the We Are Ohio coalition collect 1.3 million signatures to get Issue 2 on the ballot. Now we need to continue the momentum to get SB 5 repealed with a resounding "NO" vote on Issue 2 on Tuesday, Nov. 8.

Please *RSVP* online by going to <http://bit.ly/ceaevents> or call the CEA office at 253-4731. We look forward to seeing you on either Sept. 10 or 11. Faculty Representatives who attended the Sept. 1 training do not need to attend either of these sessions.

Does your child need college money?

Have we got a deal for you. The CEA Members Scholarship provides monetary assistance to CEA or CEA-R dependent children who are pursuing a college or university degree.

Ten dollars of each member's annual dues are invested in the fund through payroll deduction. From the interest earned from the previous years' investments, \$750 will be awarded to each eligible candidate and paid to the college or university.

To benefit from the foundation, a teacher must have taught in Columbus City Schools for four continuous years prior to applying and must be a continuous CEA/CEA-R member. Fair-share fee payers are not eligible.

To apply, you will need:

- ▶ The student's official transcript and registration validation form to verify senior status and satisfactory completion of the previous year at an accredited college or university (These documents must be university generated.)
- ▶ Proof of a minimum 2.0 GPA
- ▶ The latest Federal Income Tax Return as proof of dependency (The complete tax return is not necessary, only the pages referencing dependency.)

The completed application form and documents must be received at the CEA office by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 18. Application forms can be downloaded at <http://bit.ly/qXNvIT> or obtained from the CEA office by calling 253-4731. Return completed applications to the attention of Cora Miller.

Step up for our kids

Here's a great way to show support for our families while getting fit. Join the annual Step Up with Kids 5K/1-mile Walk/Run starting at 9 a.m., Saturday, Sept. 17.

Register at Genoa Park (behind COSI) beginning at 7:30 a.m. To register online, go to <http://bit.ly/o17Fi2>. Before Sept. 15, the registration fee is \$25 for adults and \$15 for youth. Fees increase by \$5 on race day.

The event benefits Communities in Schools, which works with communities to prevent kids from dropping out of school. Check out Communities in Schools at www.ciskids.org.



Special notes

- ❑ You will receive your first pay of the school year on **Friday, Sept. 9**. The Sept. 12 *Voice* will include the pay verification charts.
- ❑ The **CEA Fall Fling** is **Friday, Sept. 23**, at the **Hilton Columbus at Easton**. The fun and festivities will **begin at 4 p.m.** and end at 8 p.m. Food and soft drinks are free. Beer and wine cost \$2 per drink. There will be door prizes, music and dancing. Admission is free. We hope to see you at the Fling.
- ❑ **Join the sick leave bank. Donate two days** to the bank and **borrow ten** if you run out. Download a form at <http://bit.ly/q1hhmd>. Return the completed form to the **CCS Treasurer's Office** by **Friday, Sept. 30**.
- ❑ **Wear red every Thursday to show our solidarity for the repeal of Senate Bill 5 (Issue 2)**. This is the weekday when the governor signed the bill limiting our bargaining rights. See Red. Wear Red. And remember: **"There will be no deal, only repeal."**
- ❑ **All FRs should plan to attend the first CEA Legislative Assembly** at 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 15, at the Confluence Park Restaurant. Please *RSVP* to Judy Nelson at the CEA office by calling 253-4731.

CEA Pre-Paid Legal Services Plan OEA/NEA Attorney Referral Program

At Cloppert, Latanick, Sauter and Washburn, we have dedicated ourselves to teachers in and out of the classroom. Our experienced personal injury, divorce, dissolution, criminal, probate and real estate attorneys are available to you at moderate rates which are lower than we normally charge our private clients.

Please contact us today and allow our experience to work for you.
(614) 461-4455 or www.cloppertlaw.com

