



# Civil Rights Advocacy Alert

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<u>What is the Issue?</u>	<u>Why Should you Respond?</u>	<u>What are the possible outcomes?</u>
Ohio Legislature is thinking of taking up voting changes during the lame duck session this last month of the year.	Two previous voting changes took place in the lame duck session and resulted in lawsuits and a petition drive. We need time to craft bipartisan solid changes that do not disenfranchise voters.	It is likely that any law passed during the lame duck would be challenged in court or another expensive petition drive would be mounted for a vote in the fall 2013.

### **To respond to the new proposed rules:**

Send Comments to your local state Representative or Senator and urge them to take a break on voting legislation. Contact the House: <http://www.house.state.oh.us/> Contact the Ohio Senate:

<http://www.ohiosenate.gov/senate2012/index>

Save a copy of the body of your comments and send them to [advocacy \(at\) neoch \(dot\) org](mailto:advocacy(at)neoch(dot)org) for our records or send us a note if you call your State representative.

### **Tell Your Legislator to Take a Holiday Break on Passing Voting Changes**

The Ohio Senate has recommended another change in the law regarding voting procedures to correct some of the issues that came up with the November election. There were problems with counting provisional ballots and the forms required to complete in order to cast a legitimate provisional vote. There was a lawsuit over early voting during the last weekend before the election. There were issues with the hours of operation at the local level for early voting, and the sending out of early voting applications to every registered voter. There were long lines for early voting and still issues with identification that need to be addressed. The voting process in Ohio needs major reform, but this should not be done during the lame duck session.

There are a couple of weeks left in the legislative session, and so limited time for debate or discussion. There is not the time for constituents to pay attention with all the other issues at both the State and National level. We have seen the last two pieces of voting legislation passed during the lame duck session of the Ohio Congress. These previous changes have resulted in dozens of lawsuits and a petition drive. We must stop passing these awful changes to the voting laws. We need time to see draft legislation, and comment on these changes. We need time to allow both sides to point out the problems with the law so that mistakes do not continue to be passed. For example, the confusing Provisional Ballot Affirmation form, the fact that immigrants were being challenged at the polling place in violation of federal law, and passports and military ID not included as a legitimate form of identification were all previous mistakes. Ask your legislator to take a break from passing controversial voting legislation during the lame duck session. Ask them to wait until 2013 to work on a bipartisan bill that will not end up in court.

**Respond by December 1 directly to your House or Senate Member. Their contact information is listed above.**

Save a copy of the body of your comments or drop us an email about your phone call --send them to [advocacy \(at\) neoch \(dot\) org](mailto:advocacy(at)neoch(dot)org) for our records at the Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless