



**Testimony of the Ohio Association
Of Election Officials
Ohio Board of Voting Machine Examiners**

Chair Wilkin, Vice Chair Hillyer and members of the Joint Sunset Review Committee:

My name is Paul Adams and I am the current President of the Ohio Association of Election Officials. I am offering our association's support for the continuation of the Ohio Board of Voting Machine Examiners (BVME). The work of this committee is vital to Ohio, and the board should not be recommended to sunset.

The work of the BVME includes certification of tabulating equipment and electronic pollbooks, both pieces of technology being critical to the administration of elections in Ohio. Vendors who wish to offer these pieces of technology to county boards of elections must first obtain certification by the BVME by presenting the equipment to the board and demonstrating its ability to pass a rubric of tasks and capabilities. Only upon successful demonstration of compliance may equipment then be sold in Ohio.

Ohio law requires that any vote tabulating equipment be certified at both the federal (by the US Elections Assistance Commission) and state level (by the BVME), thus ensuring a high level of performance and security. However, there are no federal standards against which electronic pollbooks may be certified. Therefore, the role of the BVME is critically important to guarantee election officials and voters that these pollbooks meet the highest standards.

Finally, I would note that the composition of the BVME is bipartisan and representative of both state and local election officials. It functions well and efficiently achieves the purpose for which it was created. Although not the purview of this committee, our association believes its role should be expanded to certify additional pieces of election technology and its membership should be expanded. In today's day and age, adding a cyber expert and a county IT administrator would enhance the board's understanding of key issues in the sector and create additional subject matter expertise. In short, we believe so firmly in the success of the BMVE that we would like its role not only continue but evolve and grow.

In conclusion, the BMVE is serving Ohio's election professionals and voters well. We urge you to recommend the continuation of this critical board. Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.