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Montgomery County, Ohio

House Bill 458 Sparks Concerns for Local Veterans

Due to the signing of House Bill 458, Veterans across Ohio will no longer be permitted to use their Veteran ID Card as an acceptable form of identification when voting in future elections.

On January 6th, 2023, Ohio Governor Mike DeWine signed into law a strict ID requirement on Ohio Voters. The law eliminates a long list of previously acceptable IDs, including the Veteran ID Card which is issued by the Montgomery County Recorder's Office.

Veteran and Montgomery County Recorder Brandon McClain initiated the complimentary Veteran Identification Card Program in 2018 to better assist the nearly 60,000 veterans living in the Miami Valley.

"The impact this new law will have on prospective voters who are Veterans in Ohio is extremely concerning," states Recorder McClain. "Veterans who may be homeless, on a fixed income or experiencing financial hardship will unnecessarily endure a financial burden to be considered an eligible voter. Haven't they sacrificed enough."

The law will go into effect in 90 days, but McClain said an amendment is vital prior to it going into effect to prevent wide-spread voter disenfranchisement. McClain intends to speak with local legislators regarding his concerns. "This law disproportionately affects our most vulnerable veterans, and it is up to us to protect them."

For additional information regarding this press release, please contact Denise Gerhard at (937) 224-3857.

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