



Ohio Voter Rights Coalition Statement on Auditor Faber's False Election Claims

Ohio's elections are secure, thanks to the important role that election officials across the state play in protecting our democracy and ensuring every eligible vote counts. At no point in our electoral process should a statewide elected official undermine the hard work that our public servants endure to prepare for and administer successful elections.

Ohio Auditor Keith Faber is not in charge of Ohio elections nor is he tasked with assuring election integrity, yet he [recently made disparaging remarks](#) about one of Ohio's larger counties — Cuyahoga County. We cannot possibly understand what his motives were for these disparaging comments that ultimately sow seeds of doubt among voters, pit rural voters against those in our urban areas, and effectively pit white voters against Black voters. Auditor Faber has not produced any evidence to support his assertions, making these claims no more than hearsay. We call on him to publicly retract his comments.

We also call on Secretary of State Frank LaRose to help set the record straight. As Ohio's Chief Elections Officer, Secretary LaRose has an obligation to every Ohio voter to combat mis/disinformation and to support Boards of Elections when they are wrongfully attacked.

The employees, board members, and poll workers in Cuyahoga County are our friends, family members, and neighbors who work diligently to pull off elections. They should be commended for continuing to run secure, accessible, and trustworthy elections throughout the pandemic and despite Ohio's confusing, prolonged, and stressful redistricting process.

The Department of Homeland Security has found mis/disinformation about elections directly helped pave the way towards the violence on January 6¹, and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency warns against narratives that fuel conspiracy theories and malign the election process² or elections administrators. It's more important than ever that we ensure voters receive accurate information about elections, and it's on all of us — but particularly our Constitutional Officers in Ohio — to address and dismantle disinformation that harms our democracy.

¹ https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/phase_ii_-_combatting_targeted_disinformation.pdf

² https://www.cisa.gov/sites/default/files/publications/tactics-of-disinformation_508.pdf