

Selected experiences of voters in Ohio's 2006 election

The ACLU of Ohio took complaints from voters via its website and through a phone hotline on Election Day. Here are some of the experience voters shared with us. Each of these experiences highlights the fact that election are not uniform across the state and that there are many barriers towards every person having their vote count.

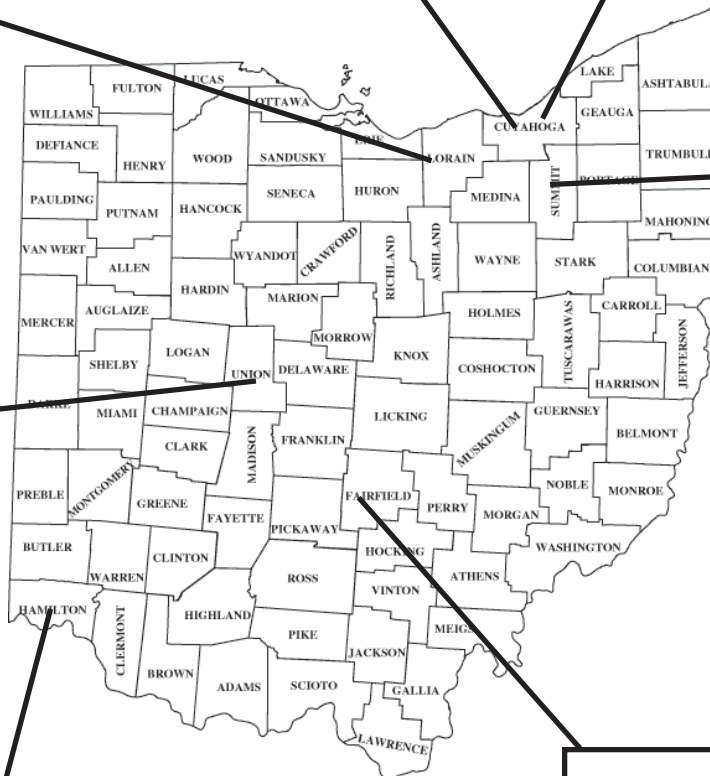
Cuyahoga County - Two out of five machines in a polling place were out of order creating long lines, and poll workers wouldn't divert voters to other machines, even though voters don't have to use the machines in their precinct, just the memory card.

Cuyahoga County - A voter requested an absentee ballot and mailed a utility bill as her ID. She received a letter stating she needed to provide additional ID. A supervisor returned her phone call and asked her to resubmit her application to the supervisor's attention in order for it to be processed.

Lorain County - A voter waited 45 minutes, and she saw at least two people who left without voting.

Summit County - A voter requested an absentee ballot be sent to him at his Massachusetts school. He received it Saturday, November 4 with a notice about ID requirements being struck down. He called to follow up, and the Board of Elections told him that the notice was no longer applicable and that he must complete the ID requirements. As a result, he sent his ballot overnight at a cost of \$15.

Union County - A voter took two pieces of ID (without picture) and was told by a poll worker she had to have a picture ID. She showed them her work badge and they wanted something with a social security number. In the end they let her vote normally.



Hamilton County - A voter requested an absentee ballot be sent to his temporary address in New Mexico. He called to check why he hadn't received it, and the Board of Elections worker said they can't mail to an address other than where he is registered. So, he registered in New Mexico, and three days later his absentee ballot arrived.

Fairfield County - A voter used her driver's license without a current address, along with her military ID and she was told to retrieve her utility bill or another proof of address before she would be allowed to vote.