



**For Immediate Release**

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**Department of Homeland Security Threatens  
Lawful Voter Engagement Efforts in Dayton-Area High School Visit**

*Dayton, OH - On Monday, February 2, three members of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) [entered](#) Dayton's Ponitz Career Technology High School to ask questions about voter registration practices for students. In response, members of the Ohio Voter Rights Coalition issued the following statements:*

"Voter registration and youth engagement are core to a thriving democracy," **said Jen Miller, Executive Director, League of Women Voters Ohio.** "High schools are required by law to offer voter registration forms, because today's students are our future elected officials and community leaders. Registering students when they turn 18 helps turn lessons from the classroom into real civic participation. We strongly condemn any efforts to intimidate Ohio students, schools, and leaders, and we will continue to monitor this situation closely."

"It's worth repeating that the administration does not have legal authority to control elections or change the voting process. The Trump administration continues to make clear its true intention in deploying federal law enforcement: to spread fear and take power from the American people. It is now up to state and local election officials and the voters themselves to uphold the law and protect Americans' fundamental freedom to vote," **said Catherine Turner, Executive Director, Common Cause Ohio.**

"These intimidation tactics are the latest evidence that the goals of federal law enforcement are not about safety, or even immigration. They are about silencing voters – and in this case, future voters – from their freedom to vote," **said All Voting Is Local Ohio Director Steve David.** "The tactic of coercion is not new, either; just like the federal shakedown in Minnesota, where they tried to leverage removing immigration agents to extort private voter data, DHS agents in Ohio are abusing their power to silence and intimidate voters. Every volunteer across the state should

feel empowered to talk to young people about their constitutional right to vote without intimidation. This moment shows the power of exercising that right.”

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*The Ohio Voter Rights Coalition is a nonpartisan partnership of voter advocates dedicated to ensuring that our elections are modern, secure and accessible to all Ohioans. We strongly believe that when we all have access to the ballot and make our voices heard, we create a democracy that is more just, equitable, inclusive, and reflective of the values we want to see in the world. The coalition’s steering committee includes ACLU Ohio, All Voting is Local, Common Cause Ohio, the League of Women Voters of Ohio, and Ohio Voice.*