

Testimony for the  
Senate GVA Committee  
3/4/21  
Shana L. Brost, Mercer County Auditor

My name is Shana Brost. I am the Auditor and Election Official in Mercer County. I am here to speak in opposition to HB 1238 which will require a polling location in every legislative district.

If passed, this bill will have many unintended consequences for Mercer County. The following examples help illustrate that this requirement is not logical in Mercer County.

At every polling place there is an election board that is comprised of an inspector, two judges—one from each party, and two clerks. With less than a dozen active voters in District 4, it would be very tough to find volunteers to sit on this board.

District 4 is also located in the northwestern part of Mercer County and does not have an incorporated city within the district. Our county would be faced with the difficult issue of finding a location for that polling place.

If HB 1238 passes, Mercer County would also see a fiscal impact. We do not have enough equipment for a third polling location, not to mention the added expenses of election board pay for training, mileage and hours worked. As we see a decrease in our revenues, adding these expenses to the budget would increase the taxes for our constituents.

I am asking you to trust that the Auditors and County Commissioners know what is best for their voters and allow decisions like this to be made at the local level. I ask you give HB 1238 a Do Not Pass recommendation.

Thank you.