

'Nuns on the bus' protest voter purge

Katie Coburn, *Enquirer* contributor 4:44 p.m. EDT September 13, 2016



Top, Cincinnati nuns voiced their concerns over voter purge to the Hamilton County Board of Elections. Precious Blood Sister Mary E. Wendeln is second from right. To view the video, [click here](#). Second, members of Nuns on the Bus Cincinnati and others listen during the Hamilton County Board of Elections meeting Tuesday September 13, 2016. Several nuns and supporters filled the meeting room to object the purging of hundreds of thousands of Ohio voters. Third, Nuns on the bus protest outside of Hamilton Co. Board of elections. Bottom, Nuns on the Bus Cincinnati and other supporters sing "Joshua fought the battle of Jericho" as they march along the sidewalk outside of the Hamilton County Board of Election meeting on Tuesday. (Photos: *The Enquirer*/Cara Owsley)

A yellow school bus bearing 25 Cincinnati nuns rolled up Tuesday morning to the Hamilton County Board of Elections meeting.

They gathered to voice concerns over Ohio's purging of voter registration rolls, but one board member said they raised concerns in the wrong place.

"You ought to be with the state legislature, and you ought to be with your elected officials," said Alex Triantafyllou, Hamilton County Board of Elections member and Chairman of Hamilton County's Republican Party.

The religious sisters, who call themselves Nuns on the Bus Cincinnati, attended the meeting to protest the process of removing some voters who haven't cast a ballot in the past six years from voter registration rolls. The process has attracted national attention because of Ohio's importance as a swing state in the presidential election.

Sister of Dominican Monica McGloin said the state should look to grow voter populations instead of reduce them.

"The right to vote has been something that people have worked hard to get and have suffered to get," McGloin said. "It's a tragedy when our public boards and officials and committees don't protect that right."

"We studiously follow the law," countered Triantafyllou, who called the nuns' protest a well-orchestrated political stunt.

Sister of Mercy Carren Herring, an organizer for Nuns on the Bus Cincinnati, said they were successful in raising awareness for voter rights.

"It's bigger than Hamilton County. The whole system needs to be changed," Herring said. "We didn't get what we asked for, but I think we're making a difference."

Katie Coburn is part of a University of Cincinnati partnership helping The Enquirer cover voting issues. On Twitter: @UCPoReporters