

I am opposed to HJR1 for the following reasons:

1. It is undemocratic
2. It is unpopular
3. It is unnecessary

Voter initiatives in Ohio have required a simple majority since first enacted in 1912, to give Ohioans a way to directly affect their democracy. Voter initiatives are more important than ever in light of Ohio's highly gerrymandered districts and recent changes making it more difficult to vote.

It is unpopular with Ohioans who are increasingly disillusioned with a government that doesn't listen to them or work for them. Gerrymandering results in politicians in very safe districts with little incentive to listen to voters.

It is unnecessary in that amending the Ohio Constitution is already a very onerous and difficult process, as it should be. First the language of the amendment must be approved and meet the required number of valid signatures. Once approved It requires gathering many thousands of valid signatures from 44 counties across the state to get the proposed amendment on the ballot. Only then can Ohioans have a chance to vote on the amendment, which must pass by a majority of votes.

Few voter initiatives have ever met a 60% threshold; increasing the threshold to 60% would stifle the only remaining way for democracy to work for Ohioans.