

## Testimony in Opposition to HJR 1

I oppose the General Assembly's current effort to stifle the voices of Ohio's citizens. Our current methods for amending the Ohio Constitution have been in place for more than 100 years, and were adopted specifically to allow the citizens to express their views directly. The system works, and there is no need to change it.

I oppose the 60% vote requirement for amendments. This would allow a minority of Ohioans to dictate to the rest of us. I favor majority rule.

I also oppose any effort to make it harder for citizen initiatives to get onto the ballot. The current requirements are strict enough; it is already very hard to satisfy them.

- There is no reason to require signatures from all 88 counties. Voters in all 88 counties will be able to vote on the initiative; there is no need to send signature gatherers to every single county, including those with very few voters. People vote, not counties.
- There is also no reason to deprive signature-gatherers of the opportunity to cure a shortfall. People move, or otherwise leave the Ohio electorate, and that is beyond the signature-gatherers control. A cure period is only fair.

Finally, the effort to put this proposal before the voters in an August election would be an abuse of power by the General Assembly, plain and simple.

Respectfully submitted,

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