

WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the Witness Information Form before testifying:

Date: April 17, 2023

Name: Kevin C. O'Neil

Are you representing: Yourself Organization

Organization (If Applicable): N/A

Position/Title: N/A

Address: 5937 Laurel Run Drive

City: Liberty Township State: Ohio Zip: 45011

Best Contact Telephone: 330.703.3345 Email: kevin.c.oneil@gmail.com

Do you wish to be added to the committee notice email distribution list? Yes No

Business before the committee

Legislation (Bill/Resolution Number): HJR1 and SJR2

Specific Issue: Amendment to Voting Requirement for Ballot Initiative

Are you testifying as a: Proponent Opponent Interested Party

Will you have a written statement, visual aids, or other material to distribute? Yes No

(If yes, please send an electronic version of the documents, if possible, to the Chair's office prior to committee. You may also submit hard copies to the Chair's staff prior to committee.)

How much time will your testimony require? None. Written Witness

Please provide a brief statement on your position: **I am opposed to amending the Ohio Constitution that makes it harder for Ohio voters to amend the Ohio Constitution.**

The proposed amendments, HJR1 and SJR2, take away from Ohio voters rights given to them in 1912, and make it prohibitive for Ohioans to present issues to Ohio voters by ballot.

There is no legitimate reason to now take away voters rights by requiring a 60% “YES” vote to pass a constitutional amendment, obtain signature collection in all 88 counties (versus 44) and removing the “cure period” after signatures are turned in when a campaign is allowed to go back out and collect more to try to make up for a shortfall. The bad faith shown by the legislature in proposing these is further evidenced by reinstating the use of an August election for ballot initiatives (at a cost of \$20.0 million plus) when just a few short months ago August elections were removed as “not needed.” And further bad faith is shown by the addition of a “sunshine provision” so that August elections would not be available in the future.

Misrepresentations by the Ohio Secretary of State and others in the Ohio GOP pushing for the adoption of HJR1 and SJR2 have been noted by every leading news organization both in Ohio and nationally. Polls show that Ohio voters are overwhelming against these proposals, and for the reason that the Ohio GOP is pushing for them, which is to deny Ohio voters their right to decide on reproductive rights and anti-gerrymandering Constitutional amendments.

Please be advised that this form and any materials (written or otherwise) submitted or presented to this committee are records that may be requested by the public and may be published online.