

4/17/2023

## HJR1 Opposition Testimony

I am writing in opposition to House Joint Resolution One (HJR1).

For over 100 years (since 1912), Ohioans have had the right of direct democracy via initiative and referendum. This right upholds the principle of one person, one vote and majority rule in general. With hundreds of thousands of verified signatures required, it is hard to amend the Ohio Constitution, as it should be. Changes to the current process are unnecessary. Moreover, Ohioans have been judicious in using their constitutional amendment power. Of the 71 citizen-lead constitutional amendment initiatives, only 19 have passed. Sixteen amendments have been proposed by citizens in the last 22 years, with just five passing.\* In raising the voter approval threshold to 60%, removing the 10 day cure period, and requiring signatures from all instead of half of the state's counties, HJR1 would allow minority rule to determine outcome. Forty percent plus one of voters could stop a constitutional amendment initiative. HJR1 thus takes away the right of Ohio citizens to decide the issues that matter most to them.

**Reject HJR1**, to preserve democracy for all Ohioans.

\*DeWitt, D. (2022). Ohio Capital Journal. Commentary. December 1.

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