

## **Testimony: House Joint Resolution 1 (HJR1) and Senate Joint Resolution 2 (SJR2)**

First and foremost, such an increase in the percentage required would make it much more difficult for the citizens of Ohio to amend their Constitution. In essence, it would place a higher barrier to democratic participation, as it would require a much larger majority to make any significant changes to the state's foundational laws. This could potentially stifle progress and prevent the citizens from making important changes to the constitution that they deem necessary.

Moreover, raising the percentage required to amend the Constitution would likely be seen as a power grab by those in office, rather than a genuine effort to protect the state's foundational laws. It would give more power to the elected officials, making it more difficult for the people to have their voices heard. This could lead to a sense of disillusionment and disengagement among the public, further eroding trust in the democratic process.

Furthermore, this proposal could also make it easier for special interests to have their way, as it would require a larger, more organized coalition of voters to achieve a constitutional amendment. In effect, it would make it easier for those with significant resources and influence to push their agenda, while making it much more difficult for grassroots movements to bring about meaningful change.

Lastly, Constitutions are the foundation of a country's legal and political system, outlining the rights and responsibilities of its citizens and governing institutions. However, as times change, so do the needs and priorities of societies. Constitutions must adapt to meet these changing circumstances to remain effective and relevant. This means that constitutions should be flexible enough to allow for amendments or revisions that reflect the changing social, economic, and political realities of a society. For instance, amendments to constitutional provisions may be necessary to address issues such as climate change, emerging technologies, and evolving notions of equality and social justice. Therefore, constitutions must be living documents that can evolve and adapt to meet the changing needs of society while preserving the core principles and values upon which they were founded.

In conclusion, raising the percentage required to amend Ohio's Constitution from majority to 60% is not in the best interest of the state's citizens. It would make it much more difficult for the people to make necessary changes to their foundational laws, while giving more power to elected officials and special interests. Therefore, any such proposal should be carefully scrutinized and debated before it is implemented, with the focus on ensuring that the democratic process remains fair, transparent, and accessible to all.