

## Testimony Against SB 92: Thursday April 27, 2023

Chairman Peterson, members of the House Government Oversight Committee

My name is Jan Lanier. I am writing this message/testimony because I want to add the words of a 78-year old mother, grandmother, nurse, attorney to the mix of voices that have taken time to express their opposition (and yes, outrage) regarding SB 92. The passage of this bill has nothing to do with giving voters a chance to exercise their right to direct the actions of their elected representatives at the ballot box. Rather, it is about finding yet another way to thwart the will of the people by creating (recreating) a special August election “opportunity” that even the General Assembly admitted late in 2022 was not good public policy because of the extremely low voter turnout for August elections. With the passage of SB 92, all your misgivings about the wisdom and fairness of having voters make far-reaching decisions at a poorly attended August election will somehow have been overcome (at least until there is another bill that once again severely limits the use of August elections). With the enactment of SB 92, Ohio voters will once again be expected to overcome obstacles—many of which you created late in 2022 to make voting harder—to weigh in on one of the most important issues voters have ever faced—a Constitutional amendment that will have a lasting impact on Ohio voters’ rights. An issue that the General Assembly decided could not wait until a general election in November for a host of other blatantly political reasons.

If the majority party has its way, the August 2023 ballot will include a joint legislative resolution that could forever ensure the unmitigated power of minority rule. That resolution (another power play by some members of the General Assembly) is the ONLY reason why SB 92 was introduced, why it has been expedited through the legislative process, and why the people of this state are here in droves to say NO!. Sadly, none of these voices are going to make any difference in the end because rather than representing the people of Ohio whose voices are being raised loud and clear in opposition, the majority party that controls every facet of Ohio government is using its power without restraint or regard for the will of the people to do the will of a few.

SB 92 is a poorly veiled attempt, another maneuver, to tilt the table. Please stand up for what is right even if it’s not politically popular to do so. Let voters decide the fate of the Constitutional Amendment in a fair NOVEMBER election.

Thank you.

Jan Lanier  
Westerville Oh.