

Opponent Testimony by Chantal Dothey on Senate Bill 158  
Government Oversight Committee  
October 10th, 2023

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to present opponent testimony on SB 158. My name is Chantal Dothey and I am writing to oppose the passage of Senate Bill 158.

Cleveland voters deserve their right to vote on Issue 38 in November. Just like Clevelanders, voters in every municipality in Ohio deserve the opportunity to vote on local, citizen-led ballot initiatives. SB 158 infringes on that right.

I am writing to oppose the passage of Senate Bill 158.

Clevelanders deserved the opportunity to vote for Issue 38.

SB 158 is a blatant attempt to strip Clevelanders of their ability to decide for themselves on the question of creating a People's Budget. The process of participatory budgeting has been used in hundreds of cities in the US as a form of civic education and engagement for residents to work with elected officials and city government to determine how their taxed dollars are spent.

SB 158 is unconstitutional because it takes away from Clevelanders the right to petition for amendments to the City Charter. SB 158 proposes that the Ohio General Assembly address local problems that are in the jurisdiction of a home rule community.

Our rights are at stake.

I strongly oppose SB 158, and would be happy to speak with any members of the committee in more details about my opposition.

Sincerely,  
- Chantal Dothey