

Opponent Testimony by Edward George 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 Edward George 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.

It seems as though the concept of "home rule" is only convenient or acceptable to those already in power at the statehouse. We've seen time and time again efforts for residents and municipalities to determine their own fates be stymied by those that don't have a "horse in the race."

SB158 now takes this condescension to a whole new level by saying people don't have the right to vote on an issue that was legally placed on the ballot.

There are far more pressing issues in the state than worrying how people vote on a local issue. However if the fear is that of energizing and empowering voters, then just admit that you'd much prefer autocracy to democracy and start sewing your robes and forging your sceptre.

Sincerely,

- Edward George