

Kirstie Ganobsik
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October 9th, 2023

Dear Chairman Peterson and Ranking Member Humphrey,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on SB 158. My name is Kirstie Ganobsik and I am writing to oppose the passage of Senate Bill 158, a law that would prohibit participatory budgeting in Ohio.

Cleveland voters deserve the opportunity to vote on Issue 38 in Cleveland. 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 around the United States as a form of civic education and engagement for residents to work with elected officials and city government to determine how their taxpayer dollars are spent.

For too long, elected officials have budgeted with their own career advancement in mind, which is often accelerated by making corporate deals at taxpayer expense. The proposed new jail in Cuyahoga County - an enormous taxpayer expense at a time when the entire nation is calling for care not cages - is one such example. This is why I believe Clevelanders have the right to make up their own minds on Issue 38, and my fellow Ohioans have the right to do the same in our own cities.

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

Sincerely,

Kirstie Ganobsik