

Adam Bresnahan
1271 West Blvd.
Cleveland, OH 44102

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Written Testimony against SB 158 (2023)

Dear Chairman Peterson and Ranking Member Humphrey,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on SB 158. My name is Adam Bresnahan. I am writing to oppose the passage of Senate Bill 158.

Cleveland voters should have the opportunity to vote on Issue 38 in Cleveland, which SB 158 targets. I am not a proponent of Issue 38 in Cleveland and will likely vote against the measure. However, stripping residents of the right to vote on matters that are exclusive concern to their municipality or county like SB 158 would do is an infringement both on local control and on the principles of democratic governance.

The proponents of Issue 38 have done the work required by the Cleveland City Charter of gathering signatures to get the measure on the ballot. The people of Cleveland must now be allowed to decide whether they want to pass the measure. Like in any election, proponents and opponents must make their cases to the voters.

It cannot be the case that the state legislature changes the rules in the middle of an election. The recent failure of the attempt to increase the number of votes required to pass constitutional amendments in the State of Ohio should make clear that the people of Ohio are overwhelmingly against these kinds of anti democratic measures.

Thus, I urge that the committee reject this legislation.

Sincerely,

Adam Bresnahan