

Opponent Testimony by Karis Tzeng 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 Karis Tzeng 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 oppose SB 158 because local governments should have the right to decide how they shape and allocate their local budgets. Local residents should have the right to inform how local governments spend their taxpayer dollars, not only by providing input but also by helping to determine how funds are spent in their local communities. Building democracy across our communities must expand beyond the ballot box, and it should include more, not fewer, connections between how our governments impact our local, everyday lives and communities. Allowing residents to have a larger role in making decisions in their municipal budgets helps to expand the knowledge and education of our citizenry and improves the effectiveness and equitability of our local government by directing funds where they are most needed.

Sincerely,  
Karis Tzeng