



**Representative Rodney Creech
40th House District**

House Bill 471 Sponsor Testimony

Chairman Peterson, Vice Chair Thomas, Ranking Member Humphrey, and members of the House Government Oversight Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 471, which will allow any eligible voter, no matter their political party affiliation, to protest an individual's candidacy for a political party nomination.

This bill will also simply recodify and clarify the existing reasons, outlined previously by my joint sponsor, under which any eligible voter may protest candidacy for a political party nomination—a requirement that has been a part of Ohio law for decades.

It's important to note that even if a candidate is elected after the violation of one of the five reasons outlined under this bill, the individual would be required to vacate their seat and pay back any funds received in the form of a salary which is untransparent to voters.

I am committed to ensuring Ohio elections are the most secure, fair, transparent, and accurate in the nation. This legislation will help voters make more informed decisions at the polls and hold candidates accountable.

Chairman Peterson, Vice Chair Thomas, Ranking Member Humphrey, and members of the House Government Oversight Committee, thank you again for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 471. We'd be happy to answer any questions at this time.