

Jeff Lehner  
Written Proponent Testimony – HB 271  
January 16, 2024

Madam Chair, members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written proponent testimony for House Bill 271.

My name is Jeff Lehner; I am Ross County's Auditor. More important than that for purposes of HB 271 however, I am a fellow Ohioan who sees this bill as a good, common-sense solution to the problem of voter confusion on state ballot issues for how the current system works.

Reps. Mathews' and Peterson's plan to consecutively number future statewide ballot issues will eliminate a possible future repeat of what we saw in Ohio last year when voters were asked to weigh in on August's State Issue 1 only to be asked in November to do it again. As we are all aware, these were two entirely different proposals. But the fact that they shared a name ("Issue 1") only months apart cause confusion among some voters that would easily have been avoided under the numbering system provided for in this legislation.

I have watched Reps. Mathews' and Peterson's sponsor testimony and questions from the committee that day online, and it appears to me that this idea enjoys broad support from members of both parties. I hope this is still the case, and if it is, my ask of this committee is that you move toward swift passage of this bill to improve Ohio's election system.

Thank you for your consideration and please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Jeff Lehner  
740-702-3080  
JeffLehner@RossCountyOhio.gov