

35230 Downing Avenue
North Ridgeville, Ohio 44039
May 28, 2023

Senate Finance Committee

Dear Ohio Senate Finance Chairman Dolan and Committee Members:

It has come to my attention that in HB33, the Ohio State Budget, someone has stealthily hidden a new method for filling vacancies in both the Democrat and Republican Central Committees. The language of concern amends Sections 3517.02-3517.03 of the Ohio Revised Code. [HB 33: page 1497, line 46001 through page 1500, line 46082].

The central text in question is as follows:

All 46009 46010 46011 46012 46013 (3) A county controlling committee may adopt a bylaw specifying that a person who is appointed to fill a vacancy on the committee under section 3517.05 of the Revised Code is not required to be a resident of the precinct the person is to represent, so long as the person is a resident of the township or municipal corporation in which the precinct is located.

This language takes away control from the voters to elect someone who lives in their precinct to represent them in their political party. If vacancies could be filled in this proposed manner, then literally hundreds of seats in many counties could be stuffed with hand picked cronies who do not represent the people in the jurisdiction to which they are appointed.

This would be a travesty and must not be allowed to happen. I implore you to remove this language from the Budget bill HB33. It has nothing to do with the State Budget and should never be allowed to be put into law.

I will be watching that this disgusting language is removed for the benefit of your constituents and their freedom. If you don't remove it, you can be replaced as an Ohio Senator.

Very Sincerely Yours,
Ethlyn C. Kennedy