

Dear Chair Rulli, Vice Chair Schuring, Ranking Member DeMora, and members of the Senate General Government Committee,

Thank you for considering my testimony in opposition to SJR 2, which, if passed, would require a 60% vote to approve any constitutional amendment.

It is already very difficult for citizens to make their voices heard, which is why citizen-led constitutional amendments are so rarely placed on the ballot. Currently, an amendment proposed by the Ohio legislature can be placed on the ballot for a primary election, but voters can only place a proposed amendment on the ballot in a general election. This puts voters at a disadvantage. Further, the signature requirement is stringent, and particularly difficult since citizen-led initiatives rely heavily on volunteers. While citizens spend months gathering signatures to place an initiative on the ballot, only 19 out of 71 citizen initiated constitutional amendments since 1912 have passed in Ohio! That's only a 27% success rate under the current requirement of a simple majority vote.

SJR 2 is undemocratic and would enshrine minority rule into our state constitution. I oppose this resolution, and any measure that makes it harder for voters to amend the Ohio Constitution.

Sincerely,
Deborah Cooper
Worthington, OH