

# WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the Witness Information Form before testifying:

Date: April 17, 2023

Name: Greg Coleridge

Are you representing: Yourself  Organization

Organization (If Applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Position/Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: 3016 Somerton Road

City: Cleveland Heights State: OH Zip: 44118

Best Contact Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: gcoleridge1@gmail.com

Do you wish to be added to the committee notice email distribution list? Yes  No

Business \_\_\_\_\_ before \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ committee

Legislation (Bill/Resolution Number): Ohio Senate General Government Committee  
SJR2

Specific Issue: SJR2

Are you testifying as a: Proponent  Opponent  Interested Party

Will you have a written statement, visual aids, or other material to distribute? Yes  No

(If yes, please send an electronic version of the documents, if possible, to the Chair's office prior to committee. You may also submit hard copies to the Chair's staff prior to committee.)

How much time will your testimony require? \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide a brief statement on your position:

A proposed solution should address an actual, authentic, legitimate problem? So what exactly is SJR solving?

Why is it urgent right now to create a supermajority of 60% to pass a ballot initiative?

What are advocates afraid of? Is it We the People actually having more of a direct role in governance, which by definition would take a political end-run around elected officials. Is if the

supermajority of the one party in the state at the moment terrified that what they support on many issues is not supported by the majority of Ohioans?

Will this proposal be followed up with a solution that only political candidates who receive 60% of votes can be elected to serve in office, which, if so, would require an even more grotesques and undemocratic gerrymandering of districts than exist now?

How does this proposal promote greater democracy? More trust in government? Greater accountability of elected officials — especially the proponents of this measure?

These and many other questions that have been raised during this proposal have in my mind been inadequately answered.

The burden of proof is on those who proposed this fundamental transformation of a tool that has historically been used to hold public officials accountable and do democracy directly for more than a century to promote justice. It's not a perfect tool.

Proponents must make a convincing case how the citizen initiative process will be improved by making this Constitutional change. The bottom line is power: the power of the few vs the many. If this proposal weaken the power of citizens to self-rule and self-governance, and you as representatives of the people truly represent you constituents, then there is only one legitimate position to take on this proposal — to vote NO on SJR 2.

Thank you.

*Please be advised that this form and any materials (written or otherwise) submitted or presented to this committee are records that may be requested by the public and may be published online.*