



GENERAL GOVERNMENT
COMMITTEE

Witness Form

Today's Date APRIL 17, 2023

Name: DEBORAH L. HOGSHEAD

Address: 421 S. PLUM ST.
TROY, OH 45373

Telephone: (937) 620-7660

Organization Representing: n/a

Testifying on Bill Number: SJR 2

Testimony: Verbal Written Both Testifying As:

Proponent Opponent Interested Party Are you a Registered Lobbyist?

Yes No

Special Requests: I am opposed to the resolution and anything
that makes it harder for voters to amend the Ohio
Constitution.

Written testimony is a public record and may be posted on the Ohio Senate's website

421 S. Plum St.
Troy, OH 45373

April 17, 2023

The Ohio Senate General Government Committee
The Ohio Statehouse
1 Capitol Square
Columbus, Ohio

Re: Written Opponent Testimony on Senate Joint Resolution 2

Members of the General Government Committee:

I am opposed to SJR2 and any resolution that makes it harder for voters to amend the Ohio Constitution.

The ability of Ohio voters to participate in direct democracy has been in place for 100 years. Direct democracy gives Ohio voters power when our elected representatives fail to address the needs and concerns of the majority. Raising the pass rate for a ballot initiative to 60% would give a minority of voters permanent veto power over the majority.

I've read that Ohio senators supporting SJR2 are trying to rush it through in an attempt to get it on the ballot for a special election in August, when few voters go to the polls. Besides, as I understand it, the legislature recently got rid of August special elections because, as Secretary of State Frank LaRose said, "These unnecessary 'off-cycle' elections aren't good for taxpayers, election officials or the civic health of our state. It's time for them to go!" It seems to me SJR2 and an August election are nothing more than an attempt to circumvent a current, voter-driven ballot initiative and to silence the majority of Ohioans who believe that the decision to get a safe abortion should be in the hands of the patient and her doctor.

SJR2 and the rush to get it on an August ballot is undemocratic, unfair, unpopular, and unnecessary.

Vote NO on SJR2.

Thank you.

Deborah L. Hogshead