



## STATE SENATOR BILL DEMORA 25th District

Chari Rulli, Vice Chair Schuring, Thank you for allowing me to testify in support of Senate Bill 137.

Senate Bill 137 is a simple bill that will ban local municipalities from adopting ranked-choice voting. Ranked-choice voting is a threat to our elections that would be too expensive, too complex for our overworked and underpaid election workers, and would take far too long to get results. These claims don't just come out of thin air, as there are several cases of municipalities trying rank-choice voting with poor outcomes. We need to learn from their mistakes and be sure not to repeat them in Ohio.

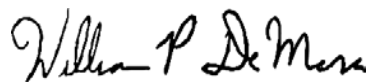
The first example I want to talk about is Arlington, Virginia. Local lawmakers voted to institute ranked-choice voting for their county Board Primaries this spring. Officials estimated that it would take upwards of \$50,000 to inform voters, and after the election, voters still said they were confused and didn't understand the process. Election workers said that the process was confusing and added a tremendous amount of work onto their already difficult jobs, and the candidate that got the most votes in the initial vote did not get the nomination! After their horrible experience, the local law makers decided NOT to use ranked choice voting for the November general election!

Another prime example of the failure of ranked-choice voting is the last New York mayoral primary. Thirteen candidates were on the ballot, it went for 8 rounds, and at the end, Eric Adams was called the winner. However, the entire process took 57 days to find out who the winner was; no one knew the Democratic nominee for almost 2 months. The worst part was that Eric Adams also had the most votes in the first round; he was 10 points above the person in second place, and they knew from the first day that Eric Adams had the most votes, but 7 more rounds of tallying had to be done before they could announce a winner. The Republican Primary, that didn't use ranked-choice voting, was decided on Election Day. The candidate who got the most votes won the primary, and the whole thing was over in one day.

As you all know, my day job is running campaigns, and if I were to run a campaign where there are 4 candidates, and one candidate gets 45%, one gets 30%, one gets 15, and one gets 10, I'd expect each of us to agree that the first candidate with 45% of the vote won. That's a clear victory. No one here today would be upset if they won their next election by 15%, but using ranked choice voting, that candidate could very easily lose. Ranked choice voting is so inefficient that the DNC is forbidding any state that has not yet used ranked choice voting from using it for their presidential primary. It is also outwardly skeptical of those states that have used it in the past and making them go through hoops to prove it.

Any municipality that chose to implement ranked choice voting would have to spend tens of thousands of dollars to try to educate voters, which most of them cannot currently afford to spend. It's not fair to the voters, it's not fair to the election workers who would have to do exponentially more work for no more pay and be placed under even more stress than they are currently. It's not fair to the candidates who work hard to build a coalition of voters only to possibly lose the election even though they received the most votes. It's simply not democracy. An election is a time to be decisive. Elections are about supporting your candidate, doing everything you can to help them win, and supporting the result. Ranked choice voting is trying to have its cake and eat it too, and that's just not how it works.

Thank you, and I would be happy to answer any questions.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William P. DeMora". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Senator William P. DeMora  
Ohio Senate District 25