



OHIO SENATE GENERAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

Sept. 26, 2023

**Written Opponent Testimony
Senate Bill 158**

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written opponent testimony regarding the Ohio Municipal League's position on Senate Bill 158.

This bill preempts municipal authority by prohibiting a city or village from having a charter provision or ordinance that allows for the disbursement of funds to be determined by a vote of its residents.

As well intentioned as this bill might be toward protecting the budgeting powers of municipalities, there are some fundamental tenets at play that lead the Ohio Municipal League to be opposed to the bill.

OML consistently stands against municipal preemptions from the state level. Regardless of one's view on participatory budgeting, how a city or village spends its money must be determined by that community.

It is our deep concern that SB158 would continue the steady erosion of local control for communities across the state. Article XVIII of the Ohio Constitution grants home-rule authority to municipalities in recognition that a government closest to the people governs best, and each city and village should be able to serve and protect the interests of their community. Passage of this bill would be the state government overstepping its powers in this respect.

Much like the state does not like the federal government controlling many of its decisions, local governments do not like infringement from the state level.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Senate Bill 158. We urge for your opposition to this bill.

Kent Scarrett
Executive Director
Ohio Municipal League