

Testimony of Harry Roth
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Ohio Senate Bill 137

Honorable Senators,

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to submit my written testimony.

I would like to bring your attention to the growing bipartisan opposition to RCV. Conservatives tend to be concerned by RCV's lack of transparency and its susceptibility to fraud. Yet a growing chorus of liberal voices is raising some of the same concerns while also emphasizing the harm done to vulnerable voters and further erosion of trust in democratic processes.

California, for example, has allowed counties and cities use RCV. Bills to implement the system statewide were vetoed by Governor Gavin Newsom and Governor Jerry Brown before him.

In the District of Columbia, the city's Democratic Party came out against ranked-choice voting in 2021 and again earlier this year in response to a ballot initiative. The party worries that RCV's complexities would suppress voter turnout.

NAACP's New York chapter President, Hazel Dukes, called ranked-choice voting "voter suppression" after NYC's botched mayoral primary in 2021. James Minor, the president of Richmond's NAACP chapter also came out against a bill in his city, fearing it would harm elderly voters.

Leading Democrats and Republicans in the state of Nevada opposed last year's ranked-choice voting ballot initiative. Former Democrat Governor Sisolak said ranked-choice voting would make Nevada's system "more confusing, error-prone, and exclusionary."

There's a reason why Florida, Idaho, Montana, Tennessee, and South Dakota banned ranked-choice voting. It makes it harder to vote, harder to count the votes, and harder to trust the outcomes. I encourage you to consider these concerns when deciding whether or not to ban ranked-choice voting in Ohio.

Thank you again for your time.