

February 19, 2024  
Jilaine Anderson  
6025 Nicholas Glen  
Columbus, Ohio 43213

Dear Chairman Rulli, Ranking Member DeMora and members of the General Government Committee,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Ohio Senate Bill 137, which would withhold state funds for counties and municipalities who establish ranked-choice voting systems.

Ranked-choice voting (RCV) is a fair and democratic voting system that gives voters more choice and a greater voice in elections. It allows voters to rank candidates in order of preference, ensuring that the winner is the candidate who is most broadly supported by the electorate.

#### Benefits of Rank Choice Voting (RCV)

- **Encouraging a greater diversity of candidates to run:** A RCV system eliminates the need for candidates to align themselves with a particular political party. This can encourage a wider range of candidates to run for office, including those who may not otherwise have the support of a major political party.
- **Encouraging candidates to listen to all of their prospective constituents and seek policies that achieve the greatest good:** In an RCV system, candidates are not beholden to a particular party platform. This can allow them to be more responsive to the needs of all of their constituents, rather than just those who are aligned with a particular party.
- **Providing a better reflection of the true will of the voters:** An RCV system can help to ensure that the outcome of elections more accurately reflects the will of the voters. This is because voters are not forced to choose between two candidates who may not represent their views.
- **Effectively eliminating the “spoiler” effect of 3rd party candidates:** An RCV system can also help to eliminate the “spoiler” effect of third-party candidates. This is because third-party candidates can run without fear of taking votes away from a major party candidate. This can give voters the freedom to vote for their true first choice without fear that their vote will help the candidate they like the least.

Instead of passing Ohio Senate Bill 137, I urge you to support ranked-choice voting.

Ranked-choice voting is a fair and democratic voting system that would give voters more choice and a greater voice in elections.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Jilaine Anderson