

SB137 is not in the best interests of the citizens of the State of Ohio.

Ranked choice voting (RCV) offers a significant improvement over traditional voting systems by allowing voters to express their preferences more accurately. In a ranked choice system, voters can rank candidates in order of preference, rather than simply selecting one. This eliminates the "spoiler effect" often seen in plurality voting systems, where a vote for a third-party candidate can inadvertently benefit the least preferred major candidate. With RCV, voters can support third-party or independent candidates without fear of wasting their vote, as their preferences can be transferred to other candidates if their top choice doesn't win. This fosters a more inclusive and representative democracy, encouraging a broader range of candidates to participate in elections and giving voters more meaningful choices.

Moreover, ranked choice voting promotes civility and encourages candidates to appeal to a wider spectrum of voters. Since candidates need to earn not only first-choice votes but also second and third preferences, they have an incentive to campaign positively and reach out to a broader audience. Negative campaigning and divisive tactics are less effective in RCV systems, as candidates aim to attract second and third-choice support from opponents' supporters. This fosters a more constructive political environment where candidates focus on issues and solutions rather than attacking opponents, ultimately leading to more informed and engaged voters. By promoting fairness, inclusivity, and civility, ranked choice voting strengthens democracy and empowers voters to have a more significant impact on the electoral process.