

## Testimony in opposition of SB137

April 22, 2024

My name is Thalia Sassman, I am a law student at Case Western Reserve University School of Law and I am writing to voice my strong opposition to SB137. I am limited in energy and time, but I find this issue important enough to sacrifice what little I have.

**SB137 is Unconstitutional.** The state can preempt local legislation in all areas EXCEPT SELF-GOVERNMENT, and there is nothing more core self-government than how cities elect their city councils. If SB137 still passes and is signed into law by the governor, it should be challenged in court to have it declared unconstitutional.

**The People have the right to Free and Fair Elections.** It can be argued that this is not an outright ban on Rank Choice Voting, however it would be that in its effect. Both local, statewide, and national electoral systems have lost the people's faith, and SB137 is a further step in that direction. This is a dangerous and regressive move that will confirm voters' skepticism and indicate a corruption they are powerless to.

**Rank Choice Voting is Tried, True, and Loved.** Voters in a number of states<sup>123</sup> and cities<sup>4</sup> stated RCV is easy to use, and that they prefer it to other electoral approaches. It was historically successful in several cities in Ohio before being hijacked.<sup>5</sup> Several State Leaders and Representatives have spoken out against bills similar to SB137.<sup>67</sup>

This bill is suppressing democracy, violating the constitution, and slapping the vision of our founders in the face. Ohioans' deserve to retain the right to decide how their locality runs their elections.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.alaskansforbetterelections.com/polling-shows-alaskan-voters-understand-ranked-choice-voting/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.deseret.com/utah/2021/11/15/22783224/did-utahns-like-ranked-choice-voting-a-new-poll-has-answers-elections-2021-local-politics-election/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://campaigninnovation.org/research/measuring-the-effects-of-ranked-choice-voting-in-republican-primaries>

<sup>4</sup>

[https://fairvote.org/minneapolis\\_voters\\_give\\_ranked\\_choice\\_voting\\_high\\_marks\\_after\\_third\\_rcv\\_election/](https://fairvote.org/minneapolis_voters_give_ranked_choice_voting_high_marks_after_third_rcv_election/)

<sup>5</sup> [https://fairvote.org/the\\_forgotten\\_results\\_future\\_promise\\_of\\_ranked\\_choice\\_voting\\_in\\_ohio/](https://fairvote.org/the_forgotten_results_future_promise_of_ranked_choice_voting_in_ohio/)

<sup>6</sup> <https://knoxradio.com/2023/04/06/bugum-vetoes-bill-banning-approval-ranked-choice-voting/>

<sup>7</sup> [https://helenair.com/opinion/column/eric-buhler-ranked-choice-voting-keep-montana-independent/article\\_49d3f272-cd84-11ed-be34-fb2283aea856.html](https://helenair.com/opinion/column/eric-buhler-ranked-choice-voting-keep-montana-independent/article_49d3f272-cd84-11ed-be34-fb2283aea856.html)