

Dear General Government Committee for SB 137 at 4/24/24 meeting

Thank you for accepting my written testimony in opposition to SB 137.

My name is Bruce Arthurs, a resident of Wayne County Ohio. I am a lifelong Republican and have voted in every election since 1972 (often for 3rd party candidates). I am saddened by the increasing lock the two major parties have on our election system. They are really the same party: the party of staying in office by creating high barriers to entry at the state level. SB 137 is another example of increasing their lock on us voters.

My main opposition to SB 137 is that it violates our Home Rule Authority that is part of Ohio's constitution. This committee cannot remove this from our constitution without going through the proper channels and following the rules. SB 137 appears to be deceptive at its heart and heavy handed.

The proponents paint RCV as costly, dangerous, or inferior to other systems such as STAR (Score Then Automated Runoff). STAR appears to be better than RCV but that is for each community to decide for itself, not this committee. Keep your noses out of our business.

Surprisingly, SOS Frank LaRose insists Ohio voters understand how to make their voices heard at the ballot box, but he ignores that the current system gives us the lesser of two evils as choices, not the best candidates.

What are the proponents of SB 137 so afraid of? Why are they opposed to the voters exploring other options to the status-quo? Why are they singling out RCV and not the STAR system? Perhaps in time they will try to outlaw STAR as well?