

Evan O'Reilly
1360 Andrews Avenue
Lakewood, OH, 44107

April 23, 2024

Chairman Rulli, Vice Chair Schuring, Ranking Member Demora, and the rest of the General Government Committee, thank you for your time and your willingness to hear feedback on SB 137.

I believe in Ranked Choice Voting because I believe in American democracy. The logic of this reform stems directly from the same principles of free, fair competition, & the people's right to representation in governance that have been the basis of our Republic ever since its founding. It is a practical and common sense reform that has been utilized successfully for over a century in countries like Australia and Ireland. It has been found to help both Republicans and Democrats when implemented in statewide races in Maine and Alaska, and it is a rare policy indeed that draws accolades from think tanks on both sides of the aisle.

One may be tempted to ask what problem RCV is intended to solve. From the vantage point of elected office, there may not seem to be a problem. But the American political system is currently facing a crisis of legitimacy unparalleled since the Civil rights era. Public trust in government is at a nadir and voters consistently express frustration with the limited options available to them. Ranked Choice is a way of ensuring that not only are voters presented a meaningful array of choices for leadership, but that elections truly reflect the will of the majority. In an Era crippled by factionalism and political polarization, Ranked Choice offers a way to restore nuance and civility to political debates that cannot be resolved with simple binary choices. It would be tremendously short-sighted to restrict Ohioans' right to experiment with this reform and decide for themselves where and when it's implementation would be appropriate to address their own community's needs for leadership and better reflect their perspectives on the crises facing us all in this young and chaotic century.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Evan O'Reilly