April 23, 2024
Chris Anderson
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To Ohio State Senators considering SB137,

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to submit testimony today. My name is Chris Anderson; I am a lifelong Ohio resident and am here today to voice my opposition to SB137.

In my professional career as a software project manager, I have frequently advised State and County government clients on implementing new enterprise-level software systems. If I had a hypothetical client who was implementing a Rank Choice Voting (RCV) system I would advise them that from a software implementation perspective, the project would present no technical challenges. The tabulation process is straightforward and easy to verify. Requirements to show the results of each round of runoffs (if necessary) would be easy to implement. In fact, the tabulation and verification process could be put into a spreadsheet for anyone to download and double check and I would advise my client to do just that.

If my hypothetical client stated that they expected some of their users to raise questions about election integrity, I would hasten to remind them that RCV does not change **who** is voting but merely **how** their votes are being tabulated. I would also remind them that other governmental entities – including two US states, many US municipalities, and other nations have been using RCV for years, and in some cases decades, with zero integrity issues.

If my hypothetical client stated that they were concerned about RCV being too confusing to voters, I would suggest that the fundamental process of ranking things is natural for humans and that they would simply need to design their paper ballots with clear instructions. For electronic ballots, the software could be designed to guide the voter clearly and easily through the ranking process. This would be true whether the voter ranked all the candidates or just a subset.

In summary, as an IT project manager, I would consider the implementation to be an easy one , requiring little more than a spreadsheet to implement the tabulation process.

As a voter, I would consider the RCV system to be an upgrade over our current, single-choice, plurality-wins system since it allows me to provide more information regarding my preferences. RCV also eliminates what I consider to be the single greatest drawback of our current system which is that our current system allows the candidate who is the *least favorite of the majority of voters* to get elected, as long as they receive more votes than any other candidate.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Chris Anderson