

Testimony Opposing HB 262
Presented by Jim Petras
Ohio House General Government Committee

My name is Jim Petras, and I'm a member of the Cleveland Heights City Council. I respectfully oppose SB 63.

I respectfully submit this testimony to oppose Senate Bill 63, which seeks to prohibit ranked choice voting (RCV) in Ohio. While I understand the concerns raised by proponents of the bill, I believe that RCV offers significant benefits to our electoral system and that local communities should have the autonomy to implement it if they choose.

Enhancing Voter Choice and Representation

RCV allows voters to rank candidates in order of preference, ensuring that elected officials have the support of a majority of voters. This system reduces the likelihood of "spoiler" candidates and encourages more diverse representation.

Preserving Local Autonomy

Ohio's constitution grants municipalities and chartered counties "home rule" authority, allowing them to manage their own affairs, including election methods. Senate Bill 63 undermines this principle by penalizing local governments that choose to adopt RCV, effectively stripping them of their right to self-governance.

Promoting Electoral Innovation

By restricting RCV, Senate Bill 63 discourages innovation in our electoral processes. Local governments should have the freedom to explore and implement voting systems that best serve their communities, fostering a more inclusive and competitive democratic process.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose Senate Bill 63 and support the right of Ohio communities to determine their own electoral methods. Thank you for your consideration.

Jim Petras