

## Ohio Senate Bill 63

Testimony of Harry Roth, Project Manager, Stop Ranked-Choice Voting Coalition

Honorable Representatives,

Thank you for allowing me to testify.

I'm hopeful that the House will join the Ohio State Senate in passing SB63. Without a law in place banning the use of ranked-choice voting across the state, there's a risk of cities or counties implementing it and creating an environment of distrust and confusion.

Ohio is a state that takes election integrity seriously, and banning ranked-choice voting will go a long way in keeping elections simple, timely, and secure. Seventeen other states have already outlawed RCV. And there are repeal movements active in the two states that use RCV, Maine and Alaska, and in multiple major cities.

Just last year, Alaska's repeal ballot measure came within 743 votes of succeeding, and another measure will likely appear on the ballot in 2026. Meanwhile, Mainers have had to deal with weeks-long delays and tech issues since implementing RCV back in 2016.

Locales that have adopted the system with RCV have suffered similar fates. Voters in Alameda County, California, experienced a glitch that resulted in the wrong winner being sworn in to a school board seat, while New York City's ranked-choice voting system disenfranchised over 140,000 residents due to "ballot exhaustion."

When voters fail to rank enough candidates, either intentionally or out of confusion, their ballots get exhausted when the candidate or candidates they did rank are eliminated during the tabulation process. This isn't just a harmless quirk; it disenfranchises voters and discourages voting. It also punishes principled voters for refusing to rank candidates they strongly disagree with.

Whether RCV is used locally or statewide, the result is often the same: American voters are left confused and disenfranchised.

Thank you again for your time.