SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL No. 63

Presented to

House General Government Committee

February 17, 2026

Beau Euton

On behalf of

FGA Action

Good afternoon, Chair Ray, Vice Chair Lare, Ranking Member Brent and members of the Senate General Government Committee. My name is Beau Euton and I'm here today in support of Senate Bill 63 on behalf of FGA Action, a non-profit advocacy organization that seeks to improve lives through free enterprise, individual liberty, and a limited, accountable government.

SB 63 will protect our traditional one-person, one-vote electoral system in Ohio by banning ranked-choice voting for all local, state, and federal elections. Ranked-choice voting is a disaster. It has caused such electoral chaos and confusion that eleven states have banned it in just the last two years. We should pass this bill and make it twelve.

Special interest groups pushing this alternative system put initiatives on the November 2024 ballot in six states. Voters overwhelming rejected it across the board in Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, and Oregon. Proponents outspent opponents $124 million to $3.4 million and only voters Washington D.C. approved it.

Ranked-choice voting is used is some statewide elections in Maine and Alaska, and in local jurisdictions like San Francisco, Minneapolis, and New York City. It was enacted through ballot initiatives and not by passed by state legislatures.

Under ranked-choice voting, the candidate with the most votes doesn't win unless they receive a majority of votes.

The only way to achieve this 50 percent plus one result is to toss out valid ballots through a ranking system. Voters are given an ultimatum—either vote for candidates you dislike and who oppose your principles, or risk having your ballot tossed out.

For example, in Maine's 2018 Second Congressional District race, 8,253 voters had their ballots discarded. That's almost five percent of the total ballots cast. In Alaska's 2022 special election to fill the seat of the late Congressman Don Young, nearly 15,000 votes were thrown out. In New York City's 2021 Democratic mayoral primary, 140,000 ballots, about 15% of the total, weren't counted. No voter should have their ballot discarded simply because they voted for the "wrong" candidate.

Ranked-choice voting results are not available on election night, oftentimes delayed for days, weeks, or even months. Last year, Maine's Second Congressional District race was called ten days after the election. In a 2022 local Alameda County California election, a programming error was discovered 50 days after the election. The ranked-choice voting "glitch" flipped the results, and the third-place finisher was declared the winner.

A ranked-choice voting ban protects Ohio voters from this disaster. A system that is designed to throw out valid votes and delay results is un-American. I thank Senator Gavarone for introducing this crucial legislation that makes it clear

every vote in Ohio should count. I urge the committee to support it. Thank you.