Opponent Testimony for Senate Bill 63
House General Government Committee
February 17th, 2026

Ross Widenor, City Council President
City of Munroe Falls

Chair Ray, Vice Chair LaRe, Ranking Member Brent, and members of the General Government Committee,

I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony on this bill. My name is Ross Widenor, and I am the Council President and Ward 1 Council Member for the City of Munroe Falls. The testimony herein is submitted solely on my behalf.

Our country is facing a grave threat in the erosion of trust in key institutions, including the court system, legislative bodies, and even the process of voting itself. One way that we can help to heal the community's faith in these important systems is to allow for better ways for voters to express their preferences. Ranked Choice Voting is a simple method to require candidates to secure a majority of votes to win an election without the costly and time-consuming process of holding separate runoff elections. It also removes the issues of "spoiler candidates" and voters having to make the agonizing choice between using their sole vote on the candidate they truly prefer and the one they find to be the best strategic play.

Perhaps even more relevant to the question at hand than my general support of Ranked Choice Voting is the way that SB 63 infringes on home rule. If a municipality, through its elected officials, feels that Ranked Choice Voting is right for them, and is willing to accept the burden of educating its residents on the process, what reason does the State have to punish them for it? This bill is an overreach by the Statehouse, and should not be enacted.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide testimony on this bill. In closing, I will emphasize that securing only a plurality of the vote should not be sufficient to be named the winner, Ranked Choice Voting is far more efficient than traditional runoff elections, and municipalities deserve the freedom to pursue innovative ways to rebuild public trust in the cornerstone of our democratic process.

Sincerely,

Ross Widenor