February 16, 2026

Dear Chairperson Ray, Vice Chair LaRe, Ranking Member Brent and members of the Ohio House of Representatives General Government Committee:

I am an Ohio resident and voter in Cleveland, Ohio, and am writing to OPPOSE SB63, which would ban Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) in Ohio municipalities. My reasons are many, so my written testimony will cite the reasons that are most important to me. RCV simply uses an instant runoff process to allow more parties/candidates to run, while requiring a majority to win. **Instant runoffs save a lot of money!** No additional resources used for a runoff – it is built-in with RCV! It is more efficient for this reason as well.

Ohio's current plurality-wins system is causing Ohioans to lose faith in democracy because it limits voter choices and fails to require a majority to win. A plurality system hurts both major parties. RCV strengthens winning candidates. Election winners can lead with confidence because they've won a majority of support. Some state parties like Virginia Republicans use RCV to elect stronger nominees with broader appeal.

Voters like and understand RCV: Over 80% of voters in Alaska & Utah found RCV "simple" and "easy" after using it. A majority of Virginia Republicans who used RCV in the 2022 primaries said they preferred RCV. Banning RCV for municipal elections would harm urban Republicans: major Ohio cities effectively have one-party rule, but RCV would allow more Republicans, Independents, and other candidates across the political spectrum to compete.

Ohioans support Home Rule and small government: classic conservatives believe Home Rule for local self-government is sacred because decisions impacting local communities should be made at the level closest to Ohio voters.

RCV is simple, not confusing:

92% of Minneapolis voters said RCV is simple.

85% of Alaska voters reported that RCV is "simple" in their first RCV election.

81% of Utah voters said RCV is easy in their first RCV election.

RCV is driven by the grassroots in Ohio, not outside interests, and has been supported for years by politically diverse volunteers in Ohio. Opposition to RCV is pushed by out-of-state special interests.

Further, RCV is in line with the Founders' intentions and "one person, one vote." Our Constitution and laws have always left election rules up to states and municipalities. These are "laboratories of democracy," and the way we've run elections has changed over the years. Our Founders intended to create a system of governance by consensus, which would be helped by majority-wins elections, and they warned against the two-party factionalism that evolved from plurality-wins elections. RCV has been upheld as "one person, one vote" every time it has been legally challenged. Your one vote may simply transfer to your next choice, like in a runoff, without having another election because you already list your backup choices. As the League of

Women Voters explains, RCV actually upholds "one person, one vote" better than plurality-wins elections because your vote is more likely to help elect a winner instead of being wasted.

RCV results can be determined quickly and transparently. The majority of RCV jurisdictions – including Utah cities, Minneapolis, and San Francisco – release RCV results the night of or day after the election. Where results have been slower, it has been a result of state policy and choices made by local election administrators to allow time for absentee ballots to come in, which has nothing to do with RCV. The actual RCV tabulation takes seconds. Finally, RCV results can be counted or verified through a hand count. The Virginia GOP used paper ballots for RCV contests in 2021 and 2022.

For all of the reasons stated above, I ask you as an Ohio resident, worker, and mother to vote NOT on SB63 to preserve Ohioans' right to choose the best candidates! Thank you.

Sincerely,

Latha M. Srinivasan

Cleveland, Ohio