

Chair Roegner, Vice-chair Gavarone, Ranking Member Blackshear, and members of the General Government Committee, my name is Denise Riley. Thank you for hearing me today. I am the Executive Director of Rank The Vote Ohio, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to educating the public about the benefits of Ranked Choice Voting (RCV). I am also a nurse, a Republican, a poll worker, and a former school board member for the Switzerland of Ohio Local School District. **And I oppose SB63.**

Before running a successful campaign for the school board, I attended every meeting and spoke—much like I am doing today. Back then, my pleas often fell on deaf ears, with board members even wandering the room during my addresses. This experience taught me the importance of accountability in governance. One of the key benefits of RCV is that it requires a candidate to secure a 50% majority rather than a mere plurality, incentivizing politicians to truly listen to their constituents.

**Cincinnati's Success with RCV** Cincinnati transformed from being labeled the worst-governed city in America to one of the best under RCV. Unfortunately, after numerous repeal attempts, RCV was abolished—not because it *failed*, but because it empowered minority communities and disrupted the control of party bosses.

**One Person, One Vote** RCV does not violate the principle of “one person, one vote.” Instead, it allows voters to transfer their vote to their next choice if their top choice is eliminated. This principle was upheld by the [Ohio Supreme Court in 1923](#).

**Election Results and Delays** Contrary to claims, RCV does not delay election results. The tabulation process itself is nearly instantaneous. [Any delays are due to the time required to count all the ballots](#), which is a standard practice in any voting system and proof that with plurality voting systems my vote literally does not count.

**Voter Turnout** RCV has been shown to increase voter turnout in cities like [Minneapolis and St. Paul, where participation rose by 10%](#). In Alaska, while turnout differences were not statistically significant, the system still demonstrated its effectiveness. [\(from 47% to 55.32% in 2024\)](#)

**Ease of Use and Public Support** While any new system requires an adjustment period, polling consistently shows that voters find RCV easy to use. For example, 95% of New York City voters reported that RCV was [simple to complete](#) in 2021. Additionally, in Utah, [94% of voters expressed satisfaction with RCV](#), and the [state senate voted to expand its use](#).

**Ballot Errors and Mis-tabulations** Instances of ballot mis-tabulation under RCV are exceedingly rare. In fact, ranked ballots have been shown to have a [lower error rate compared to traditional ballots](#). Human error still occurs with plurality voting. In Milwaukee, for instance, [34000 ballots had to be recounted due to human error](#). Are we to do away with voting all together?

**Ranked Choice Voting Gives More Choices for Voters** Senator DeMora complained about 52 candidates... Whoa, that's a lot of choices! I personally like having lots of choices but I don't need to rank all of them! Rank however many you want! If I go into Baskin Robbins, I'm not going to give up because they don't have salted caramel, but neither am I going to waste time and energy on Superman. I'll stick with my second choice or my third if they recently had a run. With Ranked Choice Voting, you are given the ability to rank your favorite candidate first and the one you have to vote for second, simple as that. You now have the ability to have more choices instead of just chocolate and vanilla. I realize you are chocolate and vanilla respectively, and you don't want anyone to have more choices... it's sort of your unspoken point. I'm here to tell you that the public really wants and likes more choices and having more say in their government. You should give them that say. It is your job to represent the people you serve.

**Special Interest Groups** The claim that RCV is being pushed by special interest groups is false. I, the executive director at Rank The Vote Ohio, am a nurse. Not a lobbyist such as the person making this claim. My organization is [mostly volunteers](#) and none of us are professional lobbyists. [Can our opposition say that?](#)

**Unconstitutional Withholding of Funds** Finally, withholding state funding from municipalities that adopt RCV is unconstitutional. Such actions set a dangerous precedent, undermining home rule and allowing big government to interfere in local decisions.

The public wants and deserves more choices and a greater voice in their government. It is your responsibility to represent the people you serve and to give them the tools to make their voices heard.