March 23, 2025

Ohio Senate
General Government Committee
1 Capital Square
Columbus, OH 43215

Re: Ohio Senate Bill No. 63

Dear Senators –

Thank you for including my testimony in your considerations. My name is Polly Peterson. I am a full-time resident of Ohio at 435 S. Church St. in Bowling Green, and I am a registered voter.

This testimony is in opposition to Senate Bill 63 which seeks to deny the option of ranked choice voting for Ohioans through financial penalties and coercion.

There is no forthright reason to restrict the legitimate vote counting methods for Ohio jurisdictions – nor to financially coerce limits on accepted alternative vote counting methods, including ranked choice. Per the Ohio Constitution, Article XVIII, Ohio is established as a "home rule" state with considerable authority and autonomy entrusted to the townships, municipalities and counties to determine how to run their affairs and conduct their elections. If these Ohio local entities want to join the dozens of other U.S. localities (and several states) that employ ranked choice voting as a fair and viable voting method, then they should absolutely have the right to do that without fear of retribution of any kind from the State level.

Ranked choice voting methodology has been employed, vetted and studied for its merit and veracity since its development in the late 13th century. It has been used for decades in modern elections in a number of countries around the globe – as well as more recently here in the U.S. Straight-forward mathematical analysis backs up the legitimacy of ranked choice voting.

As the U.S. populace generally and naturally moves to a wider range of opinions and viewpoints, this necessitates a wider range of viable political parties and representatives for the people. Ensuring that people's voices and opinions are appropriately reflected when they vote necessitates updates to our current "either-or" voting methodology. That

State of Ohio has an important role in ensuring that its citizens voices – the full range of them – are able to be expressed and heard at the ballot box. If localities determine that expression of political will of its citizens is best served through a ranked choice voting method, then the State should not infringe upon that right.

For these reasons, Senate Bill 63 should not move forward.

Thank you,

*Polly C. Peterson*

435 S. Church St.,
Bowling Green, Ohio
pollycpeterson@gmail.com