

General Government Committee of the Ohio Senate,

Scott Grenerth

15517 TR 166

Arlington, OH 45814

Regarding Senate Bill 63.

I have worked the polls in whichever precinct I'm needed for the Hancock County Board of Election, usually Jackson Twp., for many years. I wonder how many members of this committee or sponsors of SB 63 have worked the polls for their Board of Elections? I urge you to consider that as you decide who is truly most knowledgeable about this subject.

I live and breathe democracy during our elections, and I'll be doing that again from 5:30 am until after 8:00 pm on May 6th. Claims that Rank Choice Voting (RCV) causes voter confusion when there's been zero attempt to have RCV recently in Ohio and zero attempt at RCV education recently in Ohio are absurd. Thousands of my fellow election workers throughout Ohio and I already handle the multiple questions we must ask and the steps it takes to administer provisional ballots. In comparison, a question about RCV? That's as easy as eating apple pie. This is clear from multiple studies.

To inform a voter that they have the freedom to rank their preference of candidates, if they choose so, only further empowers them to exercise their franchise. Knowing that RCV was used in five Ohio cities (Cleveland, Ashtabula, Toledo, Hamilton, and Cincinnati) between 1913 and 1960 makes it perfectly clear that with basic voting methods, RCV was utilized for decades as it brought about a more accurate representation of the communities in elected officials. Considering that today all Ohio Secretary of State-approved vendors for voting machines can flip a switch and turn on RCV for Ohio, or any municipality, it's abundantly clear that RCV is not a cost burden. To the contrary, RCV is often referred to by the name "Instant Runoff." RCV eliminates the cost and voter fatigue associated with a runoff election.

To claim RCV will delay elections is a falsehood. Where RCV is in use the results are tabulated just as rapidly as our elections in Ohio. To claim that modern voting systems would have the slightest bit of problem handling the incredibly basic math is not being truthful to the people of Ohio.

If your party is putting forth candidates who are despised by huge amounts of people yet they manage to win elections, SB 63 probably sounds great. Perhaps this is why Senator

DeMora made a blatantly false comment when speaking to the Sandusky Register, emphasis added:

“I believe ranked-choice voting is cumbersome, confusing, and unnecessary,” DeMora said. “It’s something Ohio has stayed away from to date, and any implementation now would only serve to confuse voters and election workers.”

It’s clear that either the proponents of RCV are entirely oblivious to the facts, such as RCV was used in five Ohio cities (Cleveland, Ashtabula, Toledo, Hamilton, and Cincinnati) between 1913 and 1960, or they don’t care about the facts and put their ulterior motivations above any inconvenient facts.

If you think this is about Democrat or Republican control that is a gross error. This is about one thing only, control by the VOTER. Every Ohioan should have one chance to have their voice fully heard by ranking their choice. This committee should stand for the democratic principles that make this a great state and not interfere with Home Rule. I urge you to oppose SB 63 and this is based upon my real-world experience as an election official.

Regards,

Scott Grenierth