

Chairman, Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I am [Your Name], a resident of [Your City/Town], and I am here to express my strong opposition to [Bill Number/Name], which seeks to ban ranked-choice voting (RCV) in Ohio. This bill is not only premature but also undermines the principles of democracy, voter choice, and fair representation.

Ranked-choice voting is a proven, commonsense reform that empowers voters, encourages civility in campaigns, and ensures that elected officials have broad support from their constituents. By outright banning RCV before it even has a chance to be tested in Ohio, this bill stifles innovation in our electoral process and limits the ability of voters to choose the system that works best for them.

In states like Alaska and cities like Minneapolis and New York, ranked-choice voting has been successfully implemented. Voters in these jurisdictions have found the system easy to use and appreciate the way it amplifies their voices. Studies have shown that RCV reduces negative campaigning, as candidates must appeal to a broader base of voters to earn second- and third-choice rankings. It also decreases the likelihood of extreme candidates winning with a small plurality, fostering more moderate and consensus-driven governance.

Moreover, RCV ensures that every vote counts. Under our current system, voters often feel pressured to vote for the "lesser of two evils" to avoid "wasting" their vote. RCV eliminates this dilemma by allowing voters to rank candidates in order of preference. If their first-choice candidate doesn't win, their vote is not discarded—it simply transfers to their next choice. This system encourages greater voter participation and ensures that elected officials truly represent the will of the people.

Banning RCV before it has even been tried in Ohio sends a troubling message: that the legislature is more interested in maintaining the status quo and protecting incumbents than in exploring reforms that could strengthen our democracy. It is a solution in search of a problem, and it undermines the rights of Ohioans to choose how they want to elect their leaders.

Instead of banning RCV, I urge this committee to consider the benefits of allowing local communities and the state to explore and adopt ranked-choice voting. Let's give Ohio voters the opportunity to decide for themselves whether RCV is right for them. Let's not close the door on a reform that has the potential to make our elections more inclusive, civil, and representative.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I urge you to oppose this bill and instead support efforts to expand voter choice and strengthen our democracy.

Sincerely,
Kegan Wormley