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Testimony Opposing SB 63 – Prohibition of Ranked Choice Voting

Senate General Government Committee

Hearing Date: Tuesday, March 25, 2025

Chair Roegner, Vice Chair Gavarone, Ranking Member Blackshear, and Members of the Senate General Government Committee,

My name is Kristen Fontanini, and I am an Ohio voter writing in opposition to SB 63, which would ban ranked choice voting (RCV) in our state. Instead of restricting local governments from using a system that offers voters more choice and encourages majority-supported winners, we should focus on voter education to ensure people can navigate RCV successfully.

RCV has been implemented in cities and states across the country with positive results. Studies show that it increases voter satisfaction, reduces negative campaigning, and allows candidates to win with true majority support rather than just a plurality. At a time when many Ohioans are frustrated with the political process, we should be considering reforms that empower voters, not limiting their options.

I understand that some legislators worry about voter confusion, but the solution is not to ban RCV outright—it is to educate voters. Other jurisdictions have successfully addressed this by providing clear instructions, running public awareness campaigns, and offering sample ballots for practice. If voter education is the real concern, then let's invest in solutions, not bans.

I urge you to vote against SB 63 and allow Ohioans and local governments the freedom to decide what voting system works best for them. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Kristen Fontanini