

March 21, 2025

Christopher Prochaska

772 Eggleston Rd Aurora, OH 44202

WRITTEN OPPONENT TESTIMONY OF CHRISTOPHER PROCHASKA

Constituent of Ohio Senate District 27

Hearing on Senate Bill No. 63, "Generally Prohibit The Use of Ranked Choice Voting"

Chairwoman Roegner, Vice Chair Gavarone, Ranking Member Blackshear and members of the Senate General Government Committee:

I am writing to strongly oppose Senate Bill No. 63, which seeks to ban ranked-choice voting (RCV) in Ohio. Ranked-choice voting is not only a fair and democratic method of conducting elections, but it is also a vital expression of free speech. The ability to rank candidates according to personal preference gives voters a more nuanced voice in the electoral process. By allowing voters to indicate their preferences beyond a simple "one-choice" system, RCV helps ensure that every vote counts and that election outcomes better reflect the will of the people. To restrict this voting method is to curtail an essential form of free expression that enriches our democratic system.

Banning ranked-choice voting would disproportionately silence voters in situations where their preferred candidate might not be the leading choice but still deserves a strong showing based on support from a broader spectrum of the electorate. This form of voting allows individuals to express their political opinions more fully without being constrained by the "lesser of two evils" dilemma that often emerges in traditional voting systems. It enhances voter satisfaction, promotes a more diverse range of candidates, and ultimately strengthens the democratic process by ensuring that all voices—especially those of marginalized and third-party voters—are heard. It is imperative that we preserve and protect ranked-choice voting as a fundamental tool for empowering Ohioans to express their political beliefs in the fullest, most authentic way possible.