

Chairwoman Roegner, Ranking Member Gavarone, and members of the General Government Committee, I am testifying to record my opposition to Senate Bill 63: Prohibit use of ranked choice voting; withhold funding for use. I oppose this bill because it goes against the Ohio State Constitution and suppresses voting rights for independent voters.

The Ohio State Constitution clearly states that municipalities have the right to run their elections using methods of their choosing in Article XVIII section 3 of the Constitution: "municipalities shall have authority to exercise all powers of local self-government". This principle of Home Rule has been upheld in Ohio Supreme Court in multiple cases such as State ex rel. Sherrill v. Brown from 1951 and State ex rel. Bedford v. Cuyahoga County Board of Elections in 1991.

Additionally, I support Ranked Choice Voting as it has been proven to be easy to use and voters have shown support for it when used in other cities throughout the country. Portland Oregon and Arlington Virginia are two examples of this. In Portland Oregon a poll comparing Ranked Choice Voting or traditional single candidate voting discovered people found Ranked Choice Voting better by a 35-point margin when electing their mayor (63 - 28) and a 28 point margin for electing city council (59 - 31). In Arlington Virginia an exit poll showed that 88.4% of voters agreed that Ranked Choice Voting was easy to use, only 7.6% disagreed that it was easy to use, and 67.1% said they would like to use it in future election with only 19.2% disagreed that they would like to see it used in future election.

Finally, I also support Ranked Choice Voting because as a voter from the small town of Sardis now living in the City of Cincinnati I find my political beliefs are rarely represented. However, under Ranked Choice Voting I believe a wider variety of candidates would be able to viably run and represent a broader range of voters - like myself. Ranked Choice Voting would allow people to vote for candidates they feel represent their causes and politics rather than flocking to whoever represents their aligned party.

Kind Regards,

Leeanne Karpacs