

Testimony of Harry Roth  
Project Manager, Stop Ranked-Choice Voting Coalition

Ohio Senate Bill 63

Honorable Senators,

Thank you for allowing me to testify.

I'm hopeful that the Senate will pass SB63 and play its part in protecting Ohioans from the dangers of ranked-choice voting. While no locales in the state currently use RCV, without a law in place banning its use, there is a risk of cities or counties attempting to implement it and creating more uncertainty and less trust.

Ohio is a state that takes election integrity seriously, and banning ranked-choice voting will go a long way in keeping elections simple, timely, and secure. Thirteen other states have already outlawed the broken scheme, with two of those states passing it earlier this month. There are repeal attempts underway in the two states that use RCV, Maine and Alaska, and in multiple major cities.

Speaking of Maine and Alaska, delays and voter confusion have become the standard since implementing ranked-choice voting. Alaska's repeal ballot measure came within 743 votes of succeeding, and another measure will likely appear on the ballot in 2026. Meanwhile, Mainers have had to deal with weeks of delays and technological issues since adopting RCV back in 2016.

Voters haven't fared much better in the locales that have adopted RCV. Voters in Alameda County, CA, experienced a glitch that resulted in the wrong winner being sworn in to a school board seat, while New York City disenfranchised 141,000 residents due to RCV "ballot exhaustion."

When voters fail to rank enough candidates, their ballots gets eliminated when the candidate or candidates they did rank are eliminated in RCV's multiple rounds of tabulation. This isn't just a harmless quirk; it disenfranchises voters and discourages voting. On top of that, it punishes principled voters for refusing to rank candidates they strongly disagree with.

Wherever ranked-choice voting is used, voters are left confused and disenfranchised. I hope you will protect Ohio voters and pass Senate Bill 63.

Thank you again for your time.