



OHIO SENATE GENERAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

March 25, 2025

Written Opponent Testimony Senate Bill 63

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

My name is Kent Scarrett, and I am the Executive Director of the Ohio Municipal League. On behalf of the Ohio Municipal League, thank you for the opportunity to provide written opponent testimony regarding the league's position on Senate Bill 63, a bill that seeks to prevent ranked choice voting in Ohio.

As a statewide association representing more than 730 of Ohio's cities and villages, we have no position regarding the use or practicality of ranked choice voting or its alternatives. However, we are obligated to draw attention and express our concern with the use of financial penalties that would take away Local Government Fund distributions from a municipality that would seek to use ranked choice voting, as proposed in the bill.

The LGF is an essential revenue source for cities and villages to help them carry out important community services for businesses and residents. It is an especially vital revenue source for those municipalities lacking a significant income tax base. The LGF supports funding for our first responders, supports the investment by municipalities in infrastructure, provides the state with greater economic development opportunities, supports housing development, and plays a role in shielding municipal taxpayers from higher local taxes.

While Senate Bill 63 recognizes the home rule authority granted to municipalities in Article XVIII of the Ohio Constitution, the bill is effectively stripping municipalities of this authority through the financial penalty.

We are not aware of any municipalities that have decided to use ranked choice voting in their local elections. Regardless, in an effort to protect the financial stability of our state's cities and villages, the Ohio Municipal League urges your opposition to the bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Senate Bill 63.