

Chairman Roegner, Vice Chair Gavarone, Ranking Member Blackshear, and members of the Committee,

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to submit testimony on SB 63. My name is Joshua Plandowski. I am proud father, husband, and resident of Miami Township in Montgomery County. I am writing to oppose the passage of Senate Bill 63.

Laws exist to serve and enact the will of the people. We pass laws to ensure either the safety or help of citizens. In reviewing SB 63, it is clear that this does not help the citizens of Ohio, but seeks to enact the will of the politicians in power. Ohio's current plurality-wins system is causing Ohioans to lose faith in democracy because it limits voter choices and fails to require a majority to win.

Ranked choice voting is not some boogeyman, it is a simple upgrade to the way we already vote that allows voters to rank candidates in order of their preference, ensuring no candidate wins office without receiving a majority of support. It aims to address the issue of candidates winning while receiving less than 50% +1 support while allowing voters to vote their true first choice without having to worry about voting for the lesser of two evils. It is currently used in 46 cities across the US, 3 counties, absentee military ballots and two state and general elections. It's not even foreign to Ohio. Five cities, Ashtabula, Cleveland, Cincinnati, Hamilton and Toledo have all used RCV at one point to elect their city councils. It was extremely successful and was only repealed because of corrupt politicians and big party bosses. SB 63 sounds like another attempt to subvert the will of the people and that does not help voters.

SB 63 doesn't aim to protect or help any Ohio voters. It aims to protect those who have the potential of losing power. Anything that puts more power into voters' hands should be celebrated and protected. Is banning an election reform that helps voters what the General Assembly should stand for? As a proud resident of Ohio, this government overreach causes fear and frustration. I want my daughter to grow up in a state that is supportive of its citizens. I encourage you all to Protect RCV and home rule in Ohio! Please support making our state a place that respects the will of people and their right to decide how they want to vote.

Sincerely,

Josh Plandowski