

Testimony from Deborah S Wescott, constituent of District 6, in opposition to Ohio SB 63 - A bill to prohibit ranked choice voting

Senators Gavarone & DeMora's SB 63 is introduced under pressure from their megadonors who are afraid of rank choice voting. Republicans have been allowed to do an end-around of the Ohio Supreme Court's requirement for non-gerrymandered electoral maps, and now they want to outlaw the very thing that could possibly even the playing field: rank choice voting (RCV). SB 63 is part of a multi-state disinformation campaign. These special interest megadonors are afraid to give the power of a \*true\* one person, one vote election via RCV. Why is that?

In addition, I find it abhorrent that SB63 is going to legalize the extortion of any municipality or chartered county that decides to implement their right to use rank choice voting bestowed by the Ohio Supreme Court in 1923.

A cursory read RCV will show you, if you care to check, that of those voters using RCV a vast majority believe it is simple!

In their blog post entitled "What is "One Person, One Vote?" the League of Women Voters states that RCV "allows voters to rank candidates in order of preference so that if their first choice doesn't win, their vote for their second choice candidate is counted." showing that the voter's choice isn't lost as is common in the malapportioned districts of our current electoral map. This makes RCV better for one person, one vote than our current system!

RCV results can be determined quickly and transparently, with many municipalities able to release results the night of or day after the election.

Regarding the above-mentioned extortion, the senators should be ashamed! Ohio municipalities have used RCV in the past and it was only eliminated due to pressure from special interests.

In conclusion, RCV is simple, quick, transparent, and supports the founding doctrine of one person, one vote. There is no reason to outlaw it and certainly no reason to extort money from any municipality that decides to use it. Me thinks thou dost protest too much!

Thank you for your consideration.