

Opponent Testimony for SB 63

Senate General Government Committee

Rachel Salyers, Constituent in Springfield

Chair Roegner, Vice Chair Gavarone, Ranking Member Blackshear, Demora, Huffman, Reineke, and Timken,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Senate Bill 63, which seeks to prohibit ranked choice voting in Ohio. I believe that this proposal will only further undermine the integrity of our democracy and worsen the disconnect between voters like myself and the representatives who are supposed to serve us.

As a resident of a gerrymandered red district, I often feel that my vote doesn't truly count. The district lines have been drawn in such a way that my voice is drowned out, and no matter how I vote, I am essentially ignored by my elected officials. It is disheartening to watch as the needs of my community are disregarded because the outcome of elections has already been effectively determined by the manipulation of district boundaries.

Now, with the introduction of prohibiting ranked choice voting under SB 63, I fear that my vote will be even less impactful. Ranked choice voting is a way to give voters more power, by ranking officials rather than choosing between 2. When my district is already designed to exclude my voice, removing the option of ranking the officials from best fit to least fit will continue the voting for either one or two parties. I would love to see more independent or third parties on my ballot. Ranked choice voting would give those candidates more leverage against the democrats and republicans. I want officials that represent the average worker and not the elites.

What I need from my representatives is a fair and transparent process that allows my voice to be heard and my vote to matter. Fortunately, ranked choice voting will provide that and should be up to the people if we want it. We should be allowed to vote on it, not you.

I urge you to reconsider this legislation and focus on fixing the problems that prevent voters from feeling heard—like ending gerrymandering and ensuring fairer, more equitable districts. Only by addressing these fundamental issues can we begin to restore faith in our democracy and allow every vote to truly count.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Rachel Salyers
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