

Opponent Testimony for Senate Bill 63
Senate General Government Committee
3/24/2025

Danielle Wirick

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

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Danielle Wirick.

I am a resident of Defiance County and I thank you for the opportunity to express my opposition to this bill today. The sentiment in this country is a direct result of the rot of the two party system, leaving voters to choose between two highly undesirable options. We end up pitted against each other, rather than working together to solve our problems as a collective. Our system does not encourage candidates to work in their constituents' interests, but in the interests of big business. Each candidate is worrying so much about appeasing their donors that they will consistently shaft their constituents and pretend that they are doing us a favor. Constituents on both sides have had enough of the government overreach, the stripping of rights, the arrogance of our representatives thinking they know better than us when we pass ballot initiatives, and the increasing efforts to disenfranchise the voters of this state through dishonest means. This is one more tool of democracy that this legislative body would like to take from us to break the power of the people.

Ranked Choice Voting would also help free candidates from the shackles of having to cozy up to moneyed interests to get elected. Allowing ranked choice voting might actually give some of you a better chance for higher office or to even keep the seats you have against someone with more money that hasn't put the work in with their constituents that you have. How many of you appreciate JD Vance and Vivek Ramaswamy who didn't even live here, coming into this state and running against some of you? RCV would help candidates like you band together to campaign against him while giving all of you a chance to be seen, heard, and considered.

I consider myself a patriot and I believe in the rights and freedoms afforded to us as citizens of this country to participate in our government and make the voice of the people heard. I believe that ranked choice voting allows for citizens to make more nuanced choices and have our will better reflected. I also believe that this makes our representatives more incentivized to actually represent the people and work to earn our

votes to set themselves apart from other candidates on the ticket. This would create truly competitive tickets and real choice for the public. RCV also makes representatives more accountable to their constituents.

We supposedly believe in earning our place and merit based personal advancement. Show us you believe in merit. Show us you believe in earning the public trust through hard work and that those words are not meaningless. I ask you very strongly to please vote no to ban ranked choice voting. Vote no on Senate Bill 63.