



March 25th, 2025

Ohio Senate General Government Committee

Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Eric Bronner. I am a Navy Veteran and the Founder and Chief Operating Officer at Veterans for All Voters—a nonpartisan, nonprofit community of over 5000 veterans and supporters nationwide from all political backgrounds. Our mission is clear: to build and mobilize a community of military veterans advocating for electoral innovations that enhance competition, decrease polarization, and promote responsive governance.

As someone who identifies with the 55% of post-9/11 veterans who do not align strictly with either major political party, I deeply value election systems that prioritize broad voter participation. Unfortunately, Senate Bill 63 threatens these values by proposing an unnecessary, restrictive ban on ranked-choice voting (RCV) in Ohio.

Ohio prides itself on local governance and self-determination. Yet, SB 63 directly undermines these principles by prohibiting municipalities from adopting ranked-choice voting and imposing harsh financial penalties, including the withholding of Local Government Fund distributions. Such measures punish communities for exercising their democratic right to explore innovative voting methods that could better serve their constituents.

Communities across Ohio have already expressed interest in electoral reforms such as ranked-choice voting. For example, Riverside recently considered amending its charter to adopt ranked-choice voting, seeking a more representative electoral system popular among its residents that would accurately reflect voters' preferences. However, facing state-level political repercussions—precisely the kind of intimidation this bill fosters—they backed away from moving forward. It is troubling to witness communities like Riverside deterred from democratic experimentation due to legislative threats. In our democracy, every municipality and every voter deserves a genuine opportunity to have their voice heard and their preferences counted without fear of repercussions.

Ranked-choice voting has proven effective across the United States, from Alaska and Maine to Utah, offering voters clearer choices and reducing polarization by ensuring elected officials earn broad, representative support. Voters consistently report that RCV allows them to vote according to their true preferences without worrying about inadvertently helping elect candidates they least prefer. Moreover, RCV has enjoyed widespread acceptance from military and overseas voters, who find the system simple, intuitive, and efficient—qualities that all voters appreciate.

Veterans for All Voters strongly opposes SB 63 because it unnecessarily restricts voter choice and stifles local governments' democratic innovation and responsiveness. Instead of advancing legislation that limits democracy, Ohio should encourage local experimentation and electoral reforms that enhance voter participation, representation, and satisfaction.

On behalf of Veterans for All Voters, I urge members of this committee to reject Senate Bill 63. Let's preserve the freedom of communities across Ohio—communities like Riverside—to choose electoral systems that best represent their residents and uphold the values of our democracy.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

/s/ Eric H. Bronner

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