

WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the Witness Information Form before testifying:

Date: APRIL 17, 2023
Name: DEBORAH L. HOGSHEAD
Are you representing: Yourself Organization
Organization (if Applicable): _____
Position/Title: _____
Address: 421 S. PLUM ST.
City: TROY State: OH Zip: 45373
Best Contact Telephone: (937) 620-7660 Email: deborah_hogshead@frontier.com
Do you wish to be added to the committee notice email distribution list? Yes No

Business before the committee

Legislation (Bill/Resolution Number): HJR1

Specific Issue: Requiring 60% vote to approve any constitutional amendment

Are you testifying as a: Proponent Opponent Interested Party

Will you have a written statement, visual aids, or other material to distribute? Yes No

(If yes, please send an electronic version of the documents, if possible, to the Chair's office prior to committee. You may also submit hard copies to the Chair's staff prior to committee.)

How much time will your testimony require? submitting written testimony only

Please provide a brief statement on your position:

I oppose HJR1 and anything that makes it harder for voters to amend the Ohio Constitution.

Please be advised that this form and any materials (written or otherwise) submitted or presented to this committee are records that may be requested by the public and may be published online.

421 S. Plum St.
Troy, OH 45373

April 17, 2023

The Ohio House Constitutional Resolutions Committee
The Ohio Statehouse
1 Capitol Square
Columbus, Ohio

Re: Written Opponent Testimony on House Joint Resolution 1

Members of the Constitutional Resolutions Committee:

I am opposed to HJR1 and any resolution that makes it harder for voters to amend the Ohio Constitution.

The ability of Ohio voters to participate in direct democracy has been in place for 100 years. Direct democracy gives Ohio voters power when our elected representatives fail to address the needs and concerns of the majority. Raising the pass rate for a ballot initiative to 60% would give a minority of voters permanent veto power over the majority.

I've read that Ohio senators supporting HJR1 are trying to rush it through in an attempt to get it on the ballot for a special election in August, when few voters go to the polls. Besides, as I understand it, the legislature recently got rid of August special elections because, as Secretary of State Frank LaRose said, "These unnecessary 'off-cycle' elections aren't good for taxpayers, election officials or the civic health of our state. It's time for them to go!" It seems to me HJR1 and an August election are nothing more than an attempt to circumvent a current, voter-driven ballot initiative and to silence the majority of Ohioans who believe that the decision to get a safe abortion should be in the hands of the patient and her doctor.

HJR1 and the rush to get it on an August ballot is undemocratic, unfair, unpopular, and unnecessary.

Vote NO on HJR1.

Thank you.

Deborah L. Hogshead