

I am opposed to the resolution (HJR1) and any efforts that make it harder for voters to amend the Ohio Constitution. HJR1 proposes a 60% approval vote by Ohioans to amend the Ohio Constitution. Currently voters can vote to amend the Ohio Constitution with a simple majority of 50% of the vote plus 1 vote. This is ironic as I am sure that HJR1 could pass with a simple majority. So Ohioans can use a simple majority to take away voters ability to amend the Constitution in the future??? Seems odd and undemocratic. HJR1 also makes it more difficult for issues to get on the ballot by requiring signature collection in all 88 counties and removing the current cure period for further collection. This makes it more difficult for grass roots Democracy to take place. It seems that those with less means, less access to travel, those in rural areas, etc. would have a more difficult time participating in Democracy. I cannot imagine why Ohioans would support such a resolution unless it would be snuck in a primary election or special election where turn out is lower. I have to imagine a certain political party that holds power in Ohio is afraid of the issues that voters care about in Ohio and other areas of the country. These politicians see voters across the country take action against strict abortion laws, political gerrymandering, etc. and Ohio Republicans want to see that this cannot happen here. What if citizens of Northeast Ohio wanted to bring issues of rail safety after the events of February...forget about it say Republican politicians. Ohioans access to ballot initiatives has been in place since 1912 and is important to allow voters to have a direct say in our Democracy. Especially when the elected representatives, elected by gerrymandered maps, statistically do not represent the values of Ohioans.