

OPPONENT WRITTEN TESTIMONY AS SUBMITTED TO THE OHIO HOUSE OHIO CONSTITUTIONAL
RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE REGARDING HJR 1

APRIL 17, 2023

TO: Chair Plummer, Members of the OSGC,

Thank you, Mr. Chair and Committee Members, for recognizing my testimony as a very important part of the expectations of an informed citizenry, actively engaged in and supportive of citizen rights in all aspects of a healthy Democracy.

I am a retired educator, serving in Taiwan in a mission school during the Vietnam War, at Lima Bath, Lima City, Bluffton, and Bluffton University. My concerns have always been for the present and future of children, K-University. As I look at history and the wonderful options I've been given because of those who have taken seriously one person – one vote, I'm very concerned about the options for our future voters, particularly relative to HJR 1 and voter participation through citizen initiatives in bringing forth Constitutional change.

The specifics of the proposed HJR 1 that take away that option, in reality, due to the 60% requirement for passage but also the requirement of collecting signatures from all 88 counties with no option for the 10 day cure relative to ineligible signatures. 50% plus one and petition signatures in 44 counties in Ohio to get onto the ballot has been difficult at best. Think about the Bond issues that have passed narrowly but have improve quality of life, to name a few: School Construction in 1999 and Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources in 1993. There are many more initiatives such as housing assistance, job and economic growth/ infrastructure, and conservation, all Bonds in the past 20 years.

Finally, it is wrong to put HJR 1 in a special election this year, knowing that citizen led ballot initiatives will be dead in the water due to the fact that the HJR 1 passage will go into effect immediately and those initiatives will most likely not meet the new requirements.

It is absolutely essential that you stand up for me and all Ohio citizens' rights to participate in constitutional change. VOTE NO ON HJR 1.

Thank you for your attention and for respecting my right to participate in constitutional change.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth A. Hostetler

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