

Joan Calem
4890 Sharon Ave
Columbus, OH 43214
April 17, 2023

Dear Rep. Phil Plummer and members of the House,

I am writing in opposition to HJR1. This is a clearly anti-democratic bill, attempting to block citizens from using the means available to them to express their opinions in matters of governance in Ohio.

HJR1 would make it harder for issues to be brought to the ballot by now requiring signature collection in all 88 counties, as opposed to the current requirement of collecting signatures from 44 counties. Basically, this will require paid signature collectors, which creates a situation where only wealthy citizens will have the means to exercise their democratic right to bring matters of concern to the voters of Ohio.

HJR1 would remove the “cure period” for signatures when a campaign possibly needs to go out and get more signatures if they have come up short once the signatures have all been checked.

HJR1 would require a 60% “yes” vote to pass a constitutional amendment, basically creating a situation where 40% of the state rules the other 60%, as opposed to the simple historic 51% known in all democracies.

And the current Ohio legislature is trying to pass all of this at a special August election, something that this same Ohio legislature vowed to never do again when the last August special election was an utter failure and cost the state millions of dollars.

The entire bill is a cynical attempt on the part of the current legislature to once more deprive Ohio citizens of their democratic rights. Shame on them.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Calem", written in a cursive style.