

Testimony on Ohio House Joint Resolution 1
Ohio House Constitutional Resolutions Committee
Wednesday, April 19, 2023

Submitted by:
Marcia Silver

Chair Plummer, Vice Chair Hillyer, Ranking Member Mohamed, and members of the committee, thank you for considering my written testimony in opposition to HJR 1.

Ohio's referendum- based process for amendment of the Constitution directly by the voters is more than 100 years old and was designed to support a grass-roots democratic process for voters to make their voices heard. The standard of requiring 50% plus one vote of the cast ballots to win is used for elections throughout the state of Ohio. There is no democratically fair reason to change the current procedure.

I am opposed to this resolution and anything that makes it harder for voters to amend the Ohio Constitution. It seems that the current supermajority in the Ohio statehouse, elected using an unconstitutional gerrymandering procedure, may be realizing how greatly it deviates from the values of the majority of Ohio voters, and is therefore fearful of a fairly structured and conducted referendum process.

Please show your respect for the voters of Ohio and VOTE NO on HJR 1.

Thank you for your attention, and for your opposition to HJR 1.