

As a concerned Ohioan, I submit this written testimony in OPPOSITION to House Joint Resolution 1.

I am vehemently opposed to this resolution and anything that makes it harder for Ohio voters to amend the Ohio Constitution! It is **unwise, unnecessary, undemocratic, and unpopular** to amend the Ohio Constitution to increase the passage rate required from from 50%+1 to 60% for all ballot initiatives. This drastic step will lock in minority rule in Ohio, allowing 40% +1 of voters to dictate law and policy to everyone else.

No matter where you are on the political spectrum or what issues you care about, access to the ballot is one of our fundamental rights in Ohio. Our access to the ballot is the only thing that allows us to push back when the (gerrymandered) legislature is unresponsive to the needs and concerns of the majority. Giving 40 percent of voters veto power over everyone else undermines the basic tenet of democracy, majority rule.

Choosing to change the Ohio Constitution for political expediency means that a minority of voters will get in the way of reforms for years to come. Rushing this amendment to the ballot is wrong and it does not "protect" our Constitution in any way. Attempting to force this resolution to the ballot before the November General Election is disingenuous, as evidenced by the legislature getting rid of August Special Elections just last year! In December 2022, Sec. 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!" But now SoS LaRose and others have changed their tune. They feel it is urgent to push HJR1 through in August (because so few voters go to the polls), and the new rules will apply ahead of any initiatives that may make it to the ballot this November. Specifically they are worried about the Reproductive Rights initiative. Heaven forbid that Ohio voters be allowed to weigh in about this important healthcare issue.

I demand that you protect one person, one vote in Ohio by voting **NO** on HJR1.

Sincerely,

Mary Klain