

But in actual practice it has been found in very many states that legislative bodies have not been responsive to the popular will. Therefore I believe that the state should provide for the possibility of direct popular action in order to make good such legislative failure. [Teddy Roosevelt, 1912]

I live in Columbus and am urging Ohio legislators to vote against HJR 1. This is a blatant power grab. It's ugly and disrespectful to Ohioans. The existing standards for voter mandates are difficult enough to reach — many popular movements have not attained them. Why would the standards be made even more stringent? Simply put, because certain legislators fear the popular will of the majority of Ohioans. These legislators have endorsed legislation which a minority of Ohioans want, but that a majority of Ohioans reject. Ironically, the subject of the current voter mandate that Ohioans are collecting signatures for addresses personal liberty, — freedom of personal belief w/re abortion rights. A number of religious beliefs of Ohioans require abortion in certain circumstances. Yet, the governing party in Ohio caters to a distinct but loud minority of voters who reject that freedom to choose. They want to have control over others' freedom to choose. The majority of Ohioans do not want to force pro-life advocates to HAVE abortions: it's their right NOT to have them. But Ohioans demand the right to choose, period. With HJR 1, Ohio legislators are making it more difficult to express our rights when we try to reject an unpopular law controlling our right to choose. Personal liberty is something the party in power claims to want. The cognitive dissonance is revealing.

I'm an Ohio resident and I reject HJR1. I urge you to reconsider altering traditional Ohio standards for voter mandates!

Thank you.

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