



## GENERAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

Witness Form

Today's Date: April 17, 2023

Name: Kevin C. O'Neil

Address: 5937 Laurel Run Drive, Liberty Township, Ohio 45011

Telephone: 330.703.3345

Organization Representing: N/A

Testifying on Bill Number: House Joint Resolution 1 (HJR1) and Senate Joint  
Resolution 2 (SJR2)

Testimony:  Verbal  Written

Both Testifying As:  Proponent  Opponent  Interested Party

Are you a Registered Lobbyist?  Yes  No

Special Requests: Written statement attached.

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Written testimony is a public record and may be posted on the Ohio Senate's website

**Written Testimony of Kevin C. O'Neil**  
**In Opposition to House Joint Resolution 1 (HJR1) and Senate Joint Resolution 2 (SJR2)**  
**April 17, 2023**

I am opposed to amending the Ohio Constitution that makes it harder for Ohio voters to amend the Ohio Constitution.

The proposed amendments, HJR1 and SJR2, take away from Ohio voters rights given to them in 1912, and make it prohibitive for Ohioans to present issues to Ohio voters by ballot.

There is no legitimate reason to now take away voters rights by requiring a 60% "YES" vote to pass a constitutional amendment, obtain signature collection in all 88 counties (versus 44) and removing the "cure period" after signatures are turned in when a campaign is allowed to go back out and collect more to try to make up for a shortfall. The bad faith shown by the legislature in proposing these is further evidenced by reinstating the use of an August election for ballot initiatives (at a cost of \$20.0 million plus) when just a few short months ago August elections were removed as "not needed." And further bad faith is shown by the addition of a "sunshine provision" so that August elections would not be available in the future.

Misrepresentations by the Ohio Secretary of State and others in the Ohio GOP pushing for the adoption of HJR1 and SJR2 have been noted by every leading news organization both in Ohio and nationally. Polls show that Ohio voters are overwhelming against these proposals, and for the reason that the Ohio GOP is pushing for them, which is to deny Ohio voters their right to decide on reproductive rights and anti-gerrymandering Constitutional amendments.