

February 19, 2024

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Opposition Testimony to SB137 – Generally Prohibit Use of Ranked Choice Voting

Honorable Representatives and Senators:

I write to express my unreserved opposition to SB 137 which would generally prohibit the use of ranked choice voting (RCV) in Ohio, punishes municipalities who choose to enact RCV, and takes away our right to home rule as guaranteed by the State of Ohio Constitution.

As a citizen, I have held that the people hold the power to democratically choose to improve the election process by which our democratic institutions hold elections. Politicians may not dictate the election process by which they wish to be chosen to the people.

As a parent, I am worried that my children will grow up in a society that is consistently less democratic and more autocratic, with fewer and fewer rights over their lifetime. I see a slow-rolling assault on rights we've had and that I grew up believing were sacrosanct.

As a small business owner, I am concerned to see our state government increasingly seeking to take rights away from the people. Consequently, I am forced to reflect on this growing trend and how it will affect the general business climate within our state in future years.

As a retired Army officer, and after numerous deployments to “protect our democratic way of life”, I am extremely concerned for the survival of our democratic republic, even more than after the 9/11 attack. As I see the rights of the people under routine assault by politicians and others within our state, and country, I know I must act as I am doing now in this letter.

I urge you to oppose SB 137 and thereby support the people's right to choose how elections are held and support the people's state constitutional right to do so under the home rule amendment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel J. Walker". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'D' and 'W'.

Daniel J. Walker