

My name is Jim Petras, and I am a member of the Cleveland Heights City Council. I am writing to express my strong opposition to SB 137, legislation that is aimed at prohibiting municipalities in Ohio from implementing ranked choice voting (RCV). Ranked choice voting is a crucial electoral reform that promotes fairness, enhances voter engagement, and fosters a more representative democracy.

By allowing voters to rank candidates in order of preference, RCV ensures that winners have the broadest possible support from their constituents. This system eliminates the spoiler effect, encourages candidates to appeal to a wider range of voters, and reduces negative campaigning. Moreover, RCV promotes civil discourse and encourages collaboration among candidates, leading to more inclusive and constructive campaigns.

Banning municipalities from adopting ranked choice voting would be a regressive step that undermines democratic principles and limits the ability of communities to choose the electoral systems that best suit their needs. Instead of restricting voter choice and stifling innovation, I urge you to support legislation that empowers municipalities to embrace ranked choice voting as a means to strengthen democracy and promote representation.

Thank you for considering my perspective on this important issue. I strongly encourage you to oppose SB 137 or any others efforts to ban ranked choice voting in Ohio municipalities and to instead support measures that expand access to fair and inclusive electoral processes.

Councilman Jim Petras