

18 Feb 2024

Sandra Mathern-Smith  
401 N Pearl St, Apt B  
Granville, OH 43023

The Ohio Senate  
1 Capitol Square  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Re: SB 137 Testimony

Dear SB 137 Committee Members,

I am writing in **opposition** to SB 137. I am a resident of Licking County, now District 20, where I have lived since 1988.

I am opposed to SB 137 for several reasons.

First, you have no right to tell Ohio citizens how they may vote! It's not your place. Should the voters of a county, city, village or township wish to select ranked choice voting for their ballots (or should they not), that decision is theirs alone. Home rule is our right. This bill is a sneaky way to coerce and compel communities through financial punishment. Laws should benefit and protect. This bill does neither. Instead it punishes and hurts communities for simply engaging their rights.

SB 137 is big government over reach. State politicians should not be meddling in local government. This is a tenant of the Republican party and SB 137 runs completely counter to this. This bill would take power away from local communities and give it to the politicians.

With that said, it happens that I personally support ranked choice voting, for the following reasons:

- it means that candidates who win do so with the majority of votes
- it means we would potentially have more candidates to consider, offering more nuance
- it would encourage candidates to reach the broadest constituency, to "reach across the aisle"
- it holds promise to engender a more congenial less hegemonic culture of governance
- it allows citizens to vote their values without feeling like they wasted their vote
- it permits prioritizing local ballot issues, ranking them in the order in which they should be funded.

And on a final note, our electorate isn't stupid. We all rank life's choices every day. To argue that this voting format is "too complicated" for citizens is both arrogant and insulting.

Vote **NO** on SB 137.

Respectfully Yours,

Sandra Mathern-Smith