

**Opponent Testimony of Deborah Cooper
Regarding House Bill 1
Presented to the House Local Government Oversight Committee
May 29, 2024**

Chair Peterson Vice Chair Thomas, Ranking Member Humphrey and Members of the Ohio House Local Government Oversight Committee: Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony to this committee on House Bill 1.

My name is Deborah Cooper and I live in Worthington, OH. I strongly oppose House Bill 1.

Not only is a “ballot fix” unnecessary, since the DNC has provided another method to get Joe Biden on the Ohio ballot, but HB 1 is a “muddy” bill that is nothing more than a power grab. It is not only unnecessary; it is unconscionable.

The proposed “compromise” to get Biden on the ballot through legislation would purposely harm ballot initiative campaigns. Further, the “compromise” would take power away from county prosecutors and give it to Ohio AG Dave Yost. Why? What do either of these compromise measures have to do with putting Biden on the ballot? Answer: nothing.

The claim that this effort is about removing foreign money from politics is not true, as foreign contributions are already illegal, and this is not at issue.

If legislators believe they MUST pass a bill to get Biden on the ballot, then they should pass a clean bill, like HB 2.

Please reject HB 1. Voters see what is happening, and there is not excuse for adding unrelated bill items in order to hold onto power. Even Alabama Republicans passed a clean bill to put Biden on their ballot. Surely Ohio legislators can follow their example.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony.

Respectfully,

Deborah Cooper