



**Senate Finance Committee
House Bill 137
Interested Party Testimony
October 25, 2025**

My name is Chris White, Vice President of the Lorain Public Library System Board of Trustees, a high school social studies educator for over ten years in the Lorain City School District, and resident of Lorain, Ohio. I am writing in response to House Bill 137 and the language through which a taxing authority may deny a public library access to ballot measures.

Ohio is a local control state. This measure would disenfranchise voters who have consistently and overwhelmingly proved that they value their local control time and time again. By placing a roadblock between the clear will of voters and their will being enacted in order to control tax monies is a short sighted strategy that will ultimately shake the confidence of citizens in their government.

In addition, Library boundaries do not always match the boundaries of the taxing authority. This means there could be officials denying taxpayers the ability to vote if they are outside of their jurisdiction. In many cases there are public libraries with service areas and taxing boundaries in multiple counties. Forty-two of Ohio's 251 public library systems have service area and taxing boundaries in more than one county. Some have service areas in up to 5 counties.

House Bill 137, if put into law, will lead to voters feeling unheard and disenfranchised. If this trend continues as it has been, democracy will be undermined.