

# BRING DEMOCRACY TO OHIO!

You're probably aware that democracy is all but dead in Ohio. We have a process for selecting representatives, but that system was designed to make sure only Democrats or Republicans could win. Then, in 2010, the Republicans figured out a way to make it so only Republicans could win. When a system is designed to subvert the will of the people, you can't call it democracy.

In 2015, Ohio voters decided we were sick of it. We passed Issue 1, a state constitutional amendment to reform redistricting to eliminate gerrymandering. 71.47% of voters supported it. We were taking the power back.

But you've read the news. You know that the plan has backfired spectacularly. We tried to fix a broken system with duct tape and super glue. It can't be fixed, it has to be replaced.

Proportional representation using ranked-choice voting isn't just the new system—it's the old system that worked so well that all the racists and political bosses in Ohio scrambled to destroy it. We're going to bring it back, city by city. Starting with Dayton, we're going to show the people of Ohio what Democracy is all about.

**ASHTABULA**  
1915 – 1929



First city in U.S. to implement ranked-choice voting.

Experienced most diverse council in city's history regarding ethnicity, religion, and political affiliation.

Repeal efforts: 3

White protestants—the minority—held the council majority before and after RCV, but not during.

**CLEVELAND**  
1924 - 1931



Previous Black council members: 1

Black council members during ranked-choice voting: 3

Repeal efforts: 5

After RCV: No women elected until 1949.

**CINCINNATI**  
1925-1957



Previous Black council members: 0

Black council members during ranked-choice voting: 3

Repeal efforts: 5

After ranked-choice voting: No black candidate elected until 1963.

## OHIO TODAY

Ohio is approximately 54% Republican

Almost 2/3 of State Legislature is Republican

State GOP representation should gerrymandered maps pass: 81%

Democratic-leaning U.S. Congressional districts: 2 (13.3%)

Republican-leaning U.S. Congressional Districts 13 (86.7%)

# HOW WE'RE CHANGING DAYTON ELECTIONS

## SINGLE TRANSFERABLE VOTE FOR DAYTON MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

It's been over twenty years since a non-Democrat held a seat on the Dayton City Commission. By making elections more proportional, we'll break up the political hegemony. Democrats exerting a monopoly on city politics is just as bad as Republicans exerting a monopoly on state politics. We believe in a democracy that best represents the people.

### Eliminates the Primaries

Local primaries in Dayton routinely have a turnout of less than 5%. That doesn't sound very democratic. We spend a bunch of money on primaries that undermine democracy.

### The Time is Now

Dayton voters rejected establishment endorsements by electing left-of-center candidates Shenise Turner-Sloss and Darryl Fairchild. The appetite for reform in the city is palpable, but we need to act now. If the electorate does not see the change they voted for then democratic engagement may lose its momentum.

### Reduces Signature Requirements

It takes 50 signatures to run for U.S. Congress but 500 to run for a "part-time job" on the Dayton City Commission. That's backwards.

### A Template for the Future

We're passing a city charter amendment. In Ohio, charter amendments are outlined by the State Constitution. This means all the work we do in Dayton will be directly applicable to other Ohio municipalities and no local ordinances will hinder this from being implemented throughout the state.

**QUESTIONS? COMMENTS?**  
**WE'D LOVE TO CONNECT WITH YOU!**  
[reconstructingdayton.org/rankedchoice](http://reconstructingdayton.org/rankedchoice)  
[director@reconstructingdayton.org](mailto:director@reconstructingdayton.org)  
Facebook: /reconstructingdayton  
Twitter @reconstructd8tn

