

Ohio Issue 1 Ballot Language

Issue 1

Proposed Constitutional Amendment

Elevating the Standards to Qualify for and to Pass any Constitutional Amendment

Proposed by Joint Resolution of the General Assembly

To amend Sections 1b, 1e, and 1g of Article II and Sections 1 and 3 of Article XVI of the Constitution of the State of Ohio

A majority yes vote is necessary for the amendment to pass.

The proposed amendment would:

- Require that any proposed amendment to the Constitution of the State of Ohio receive the approval of at least 60 percent of eligible voters voting on the proposed amendment.
- Require that any initiative petition filed on or after January 1, 2024 with the Secretary of State proposing to amend the Constitution of the State of Ohio be signed by at least five percent of the eligible voters of each county in the state.
- Specify that additional signatures may not be added to an initiative petition filed with the Secretary of State on or after January 1, 2024 proposing to amend the Constitution of the State of Ohio.

If passed, the amendment shall be effective immediately.

SHALL THE AMENDMENT BE APPROVED?

☐ Yes

☐ No

OHIO ISSUE 1 BALLOT LANGUAGE HAS BECOME A FOCAL POINT OF POLITICAL DISCUSSION IN THE STATE, ESPECIALLY AS THE ELECTORATE PREPARES FOR UPCOMING ELECTIONS. THIS PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT AIMS TO ADDRESS SEVERAL KEY ISSUES THAT RESONATE WITH OHIOANS, INCLUDING VOTING RIGHTS, ELECTION INTEGRITY, AND THE PROCESSES THROUGH WHICH CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS CAN BE ADOPTED. THIS ARTICLE WILL DELVE INTO THE SPECIFICS OF THE BALLOT LANGUAGE, ITS IMPLICATIONS, AND THE BROADER CONTEXT THAT SURROUNDS IT.

UNDERSTANDING OHIO ISSUE 1

OHIO ISSUE 1 IS A PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE STATE CONSTITUTION THAT SEEKS TO MODIFY THE REQUIREMENTS AND PROCESSES ASSOCIATED WITH CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS. IT HAS SPARKED CONSIDERABLE DEBATE AMONG LAWMAKERS, POLITICAL ANALYSTS, AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC. THE LANGUAGE USED IN THE BALLOT IS CRITICAL, AS IT WILL DETERMINE HOW VOTERS INTERPRET THE AMENDMENT AND ITS POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCES.

KEY COMPONENTS OF THE BALLOT LANGUAGE

THE BALLOT LANGUAGE FOR OHIO ISSUE 1 IS DESIGNED TO SUCCINCTLY PRESENT THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO VOTERS. HERE ARE SOME OF THE KEY COMPONENTS THAT IT INCLUDES:

- 1. PURPOSE OF THE AMENDMENT:** THE LANGUAGE OUTLINES THE PRIMARY OBJECTIVES OF THE PROPOSED CHANGES, EMPHASIZING THE NEED FOR GREATER TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN THE AMENDMENT PROCESS.
- 2. VOTING REQUIREMENTS:** THE AMENDMENT SPECIFIES THE NEW VOTING THRESHOLDS REQUIRED FOR FUTURE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS, POTENTIALLY RAISING THE PERCENTAGE OF VOTES NEEDED FOR APPROVAL.
- 3. VOTER ENGAGEMENT:** THERE IS A FOCUS ON ENHANCING VOTER ENGAGEMENT AND EDUCATION ABOUT THE AMENDMENT PROCESS, WHICH AIMS TO ENSURE THAT CITIZENS ARE INFORMED ABOUT THEIR RIGHTS AND THE IMPLICATIONS OF ANY CHANGES.
- 4. TIMELINE FOR IMPLEMENTATION:** THE BALLOT LANGUAGE INCLUDES DETAILS ABOUT WHEN THE PROPOSED CHANGES WOULD TAKE EFFECT IF PASSED, ENSURING VOTERS UNDERSTAND THE TIMELINE INVOLVED.
- 5. IMPACT ON FUTURE AMENDMENTS:** IT ADDRESSES HOW THIS AMENDMENT WOULD AFFECT THE PASSAGE OF FUTURE AMENDMENTS, AIMING TO CLARIFY THE PROCESS FOR SUBSEQUENT PROPOSALS.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROPOSED CHANGES

THE IMPLICATIONS OF OHIO ISSUE 1 ARE SIGNIFICANT AND MULTIFACETED. UNDERSTANDING THESE RAMIFICATIONS IS ESSENTIAL FOR VOTERS AS THEY PREPARE TO CAST THEIR BALLOTS.

IMPACT ON VOTER RIGHTS

ONE OF THE MOST DISCUSSED ASPECTS OF OHIO ISSUE 1 IS ITS POTENTIAL IMPACT ON VOTER RIGHTS. HERE'S HOW:

- **INCREASED THRESHOLDS:** BY RAISING THE PERCENTAGE OF VOTES NEEDED FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS, CRITICS ARGUE THAT IT COULD DISENFRANCHISE VOTERS, MAKING IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR GRASSROOTS MOVEMENTS TO PUSH FOR CHANGE.
- **VOTER EDUCATION INITIATIVES:** PROPONENTS OF THE AMENDMENT BELIEVE THAT ENHANCING VOTER EDUCATION WILL EMPOWER CITIZENS, ENSURING THAT THEY ARE MORE INFORMED ABOUT THE AMENDMENT PROCESS AND ITS SIGNIFICANCE.

CHANGES TO THE AMENDMENT PROCESS

THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE AMENDMENT PROCESS COULD LEAD TO SEVERAL OUTCOMES:

1. **MORE RIGOROUS STANDARDS:** THE AMENDMENT SETS FORTH MORE RIGOROUS STANDARDS FOR WHAT CONSTITUTES A VALID CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT, POTENTIALLY LEADING TO FEWER AMENDMENTS BEING PASSED.
2. **LONGER CAMPAIGNS:** IF THE AMENDMENT REQUIRES HIGHER THRESHOLDS FOR PASSING INITIATIVES, IT MAY RESULT IN LONGER CAMPAIGN PERIODS AS GROUPS WORK TO MOBILIZE SUPPORT.
3. **HURDLES FOR FUTURE PROPOSALS:** FUTURE PROPOSALS MAY FACE ADDITIONAL HURDLES, LEADING TO A CONSOLIDATION OF POWER AMONG ESTABLISHED POLITICAL ENTITIES WHILE MAKING IT HARDER FOR NEW IDEAS TO GAIN TRACTION.

PUBLIC OPINION AND POLITICAL CONTEXT

THE POLITICAL LANDSCAPE SURROUNDING OHIO ISSUE 1 IS COMPLEX, WITH VARIOUS STAKEHOLDERS WEIGHING IN ON ITS MERITS AND DRAWBACKS. UNDERSTANDING PUBLIC OPINION IS CRUCIAL IN ASSESSING THE POTENTIAL OUTCOME OF THE BALLOT INITIATIVE.

SUPPORTERS OF OHIO ISSUE 1

SUPPORTERS ARGUE THAT THE CHANGES PROPOSED IN OHIO ISSUE 1 ARE NECESSARY FOR MAINTAINING THE INTEGRITY OF THE STATE'S CONSTITUTION. KEY POINTS MADE BY ADVOCATES INCLUDE:

- **ENHANCING INTEGRITY:** PROponents contend that stricter regulations on the amendment process will prevent frivolous or poorly thought-out amendments from reaching the ballot.
- **STRENGTHENING DEMOCRACY:** MANY SUPPORTERS BELIEVE THAT BY ENCOURAGING INFORMED VOTING AND ENGAGEMENT, THE AMENDMENT WILL ULTIMATELY STRENGTHEN OHIO'S DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES.
- **LONG-TERM STABILITY:** THEY ARGUE THAT A MORE RIGOROUS AMENDMENT PROCESS WILL LEAD TO A MORE STABLE AND PREDICTABLE LEGAL FRAMEWORK WITHIN THE STATE.

OPPONENTS OF OHIO ISSUE 1

CONVERSELY, OPPONENTS EXPRESS CONCERNS THAT THE PROPOSED CHANGES COULD UNDERMINE DEMOCRACY AND VOTER EMPOWERMENT. THEIR ARGUMENTS INCLUDE:

1. **VOTER DISENFRANCHISEMENT:** CRITICS FEAR THAT RAISING THE VOTING THRESHOLD WILL DISENFRANCHISE CITIZENS, PARTICULARLY MARGINALIZED GROUPS WHO MAY STRUGGLE TO MOBILIZE SUFFICIENT SUPPORT.
2. **POLITICAL MANIPULATION:** THERE ARE CONCERNS THAT ESTABLISHED POLITICAL ENTITIES COULD MANIPULATE THE AMENDMENT PROCESS TO MAINTAIN THEIR POWER, STIFLING PROGRESSIVE CHANGES.
3. **REDUCED PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** OPPONENTS ARGUE THAT MAKING IT MORE CHALLENGING TO PASS AMENDMENTS COULD LEAD TO DECREASED PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS, AS CITIZENS MAY FEEL THEIR VOICES ARE BEING SILENCED.

THE PATH FORWARD: VOTING ON OHIO ISSUE 1

AS THE DATE OF THE VOTE APPROACHES, IT IS ESSENTIAL FOR VOTERS TO BE INFORMED ABOUT OHIO ISSUE 1 AND ITS IMPLICATIONS. HERE ARE SOME STEPS THEY CAN TAKE:

EDUCATE YOURSELF

- RESEARCH THE BALLOT LANGUAGE: VOTERS SHOULD READ THE EXACT BALLOT LANGUAGE AND FAMILIARIZE THEMSELVES WITH THE PROPOSED CHANGES.
- SEEK DIVERSE OPINIONS: ENGAGING WITH VARIOUS VIEWPOINTS, INCLUDING THOSE FROM BOTH SUPPORTERS AND OPPONENTS, CAN PROVIDE A WELL-ROUNDED PERSPECTIVE.

ENGAGE IN DISCUSSIONS

- TALK TO OTHERS: DISCUSSING THE ISSUE WITH FRIENDS, FAMILY, AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS CAN FACILITATE A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING AND ENCOURAGE CIVIC ENGAGEMENT.
- ATTEND LOCAL FORUMS: PARTICIPATING IN TOWN HALL MEETINGS OR FORUMS CAN ALSO ENHANCE KNOWLEDGE AND ALLOW VOTERS TO ASK QUESTIONS DIRECTLY TO ADVOCATES AND CRITICS.

MAKE A PLAN TO VOTE

- KNOW THE VOTING PROCESS: UNDERSTAND HOW TO VOTE, INCLUDING REGISTRATION DEADLINES AND VOTING LOCATIONS.
- RESEARCH LOCAL CANDIDATES: INVESTIGATE HOW LOCAL CANDIDATES STAND ON OHIO ISSUE 1, AS THEIR POSITIONS MAY INFLUENCE THE OUTCOME OF THE VOTE.

CONCLUSION

IN CONCLUSION, OHIO ISSUE 1 BALLOT LANGUAGE REPRESENTS A SIGNIFICANT SHIFT IN THE WAY CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS MAY BE APPROACHED IN THE STATE. AS VOTERS PREPARE TO MAKE THEIR VOICES HEARD, UNDERSTANDING THE NUANCES OF THE BALLOT LANGUAGE AND THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROPOSED CHANGES IS PARAMOUNT. WITH A ROBUST PUBLIC DISCOURSE SURROUNDING THE ISSUE, OHIOANS HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO ENGAGE IN MEANINGFUL DISCUSSIONS THAT WILL SHAPE THE FUTURE OF THEIR STATE'S GOVERNANCE. WHETHER YOU SUPPORT OR OPPOSE THE AMENDMENT, ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN THE ELECTORAL PROCESS IS CRUCIAL FOR ENSURING THAT EVERY VOICE IS COUNTED.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT IS OHIO ISSUE 1 ABOUT?

OHIO ISSUE 1 IS A PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE STATE CONSTITUTION THAT AIMS TO CHANGE THE PROCESS FOR AMENDING THE CONSTITUTION, REQUIRING A HIGHER THRESHOLD OF VOTER APPROVAL FOR FUTURE AMENDMENTS.

HOW DOES THE BALLOT LANGUAGE FOR OHIO ISSUE 1 AFFECT VOTER UNDERSTANDING?

THE BALLOT LANGUAGE FOR OHIO ISSUE 1 IS DESIGNED TO CLEARLY OUTLINE THE PROPOSED CHANGES, BUT SOME CRITICS ARGUE THAT IT MAY BE CONFUSING FOR VOTERS, WHICH COULD IMPACT THE OUTCOME OF THE VOTE.

WHAT SPECIFIC CHANGES DOES OHIO ISSUE 1 PROPOSE REGARDING CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS?

OHIO ISSUE 1 PROPOSES THAT ANY FUTURE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT MUST RECEIVE AT LEAST 60% OF THE VOTE TO BE APPROVED, INSTEAD OF THE CURRENT SIMPLE MAJORITY REQUIREMENT.

WHEN WILL OHIO ISSUE 1 BE ON THE BALLOT?

OHIO ISSUE 1 IS SET TO BE ON THE BALLOT DURING THE UPCOMING GENERAL ELECTION, WHICH IS SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER 2023.

WHO SUPPORTS AND OPPOSES OHIO ISSUE 1?

SUPPORTERS OF OHIO ISSUE 1 ARGUE THAT IT WILL PROTECT THE CONSTITUTION FROM FREQUENT CHANGES, WHILE OPPONENTS CLAIM IT COULD HINDER THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS AND MAKE IT HARDER FOR CITIZENS TO ENACT NECESSARY REFORMS.

WHAT IMPLICATIONS COULD OHIO ISSUE 1 HAVE FOR FUTURE BALLOT INITIATIVES?

IF PASSED, OHIO ISSUE 1 COULD SIGNIFICANTLY LIMIT THE ABILITY OF CITIZENS TO PROPOSE AND PASS FUTURE BALLOT INITIATIVES, POTENTIALLY REDUCING GRASSROOTS MOVEMENTS AND MAKING IT MORE CHALLENGING TO ADDRESS KEY ISSUES.

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