

OHIO ISSUES REPORT

State Issue Ballot Information for the
November 2, 2004 General Election

Distributed By
The Ohio Ballot Board
Secretary of State J. Kenneth Blackwell
Chairman

ISSUE 1

This publication gives Ohioans an opportunity to compare the arguments for and against the statewide issue on the November 2nd ballot. The ballot language for Issue 1 was certified by the nonpartisan Ohio Ballot Board. The explanations/arguments for and against Issue 1 were written by the individuals listed and are printed as submitted to my office.

We urge all Ohioans to study the issue carefully and then vote on November 2.



PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

(Proposed by Initiative Petition)

1 Be it Resolved by the People of the State of Ohio:

That the Constitution of the State of Ohio be amended by adopting a section to be designated as Section 11 of Article XV thereof, to read as follows:

Article XV
Section 11. Only a union between one man and one woman may be a marriage valid in or recognized by this state and its political subdivisions. This state and its political subdivisions shall not create or recognize a legal status for relationships of unmarried individuals that intends to approximate the design, qualities, significance or effect of marriage.

A majority yes vote is necessary for passage.

	YES	SHALL THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT BE ADOPTED?
	NO	

EXPLANATION AND ARGUMENT IN SUPPORT OF MARRIAGE PROTECTION AMENDMENT (ISSUE 1)

Vote YES on Issue 1 to preserve in Ohio law the universal, historic institution of marriage as the union of one man and one woman, and to protect marriage against those who would alter and undermine it.

WHAT ISSUE 1 DOES:

- Issue 1 establishes in the Ohio Constitution the historic definition of marriage as exclusively between one man and one woman as husband and wife.
- Issue 1 excludes from the definition of marriage homosexual relationships and relationships of three or more persons.
- Issue 1 prohibits judges in Ohio from anti-democratic efforts to redefine marriage, such as was done by a bare majority of the judges of the Massachusetts Supreme Court, which ordered that same-sex “marriage” be recognized in that state.
- Issue 1 restricts governmental bodies in Ohio from using your tax dollars to give official status, recognition and benefits to homosexual and other deviant relationships that seek to imitate marriage.

WHAT ISSUE 1 DOES NOT DO:

- Issue 1 does not interfere in any way with the individual choices of citizens as to the private relationships they desire to enter and maintain.
- Issue 1 does not interfere in any way with government benefits granted to persons in non-marital homosexual relationships, so long as the government does not grant those benefits to such persons specifically for the reason that the relationship is one that seeks to imitate marriage.

The wisdom of the ages tells us that marriage between one man and one woman is critical to the well being of our children and to the maintenance of the fundamental social institution of the family. Please vote to preserve marriage on November 2, 2004.

Please Vote YES on Issue 1, the Marriage Protection Amendment.

Submitted by the Ohio Campaign to Protect Marriage:

Rev. K.Z. Smith
Lori Viars
Phil Burress

The Ohio Marriage Amendment. It's Not What You Think. It Hurts Families.

If passed, Issue 1 will eliminate rights, benefits and protections for all unmarried couples in Ohio. Claims that it merely restates Ohio's long-standing definition of marriage are untrue. Even Defense of Marriage Act author State Representative Bill Seitz said the amendment is poorly written and too ambiguous. Governor Taft and Attorney General Petro say it goes too far.

While claiming to protect Ohio families, Issue 1 actually punishes:

- Senior living together to protect pension benefits
- Unmarried couples seeking to jointly own property
- People who receive health benefits from domestic partner plans
- Unmarried women seeking maternity leave
- Adopted children of unmarried couples

If this amendment passes, even an unmarried person's right to leave property to a partner could not be recognized by Ohio courts.

Referring to leaders behind the amendment, The Canton Repository said ...

“They make no bones about wanting to make life as difficult as possible for all couples, gay or straight, who don't toe their moral line.”

It Hurts Ohio's Economy.

Leading economic and legal experts agree that Issue 1 would have a negative impact on our struggling economy. The editorial page editor of the Cleveland Plain Dealer stated in a recent editorial that this amendment would cost the state thousands of jobs, and help perpetuate Ohio's “long and relentless dive to the bottom.”

Crain's Cleveland Business summed up the economic impact by stating, “The ability to offer such benefits [domestic partner benefits] is a critical tool to many companies and universities in Ohio. The article concluded the editorial by saying ...

“Regardless of your feelings about gay marriage, this amendment deserves to be defeated because it is anti-business and anti-competitive.”

VOTE NO ON ISSUE 1. PROTECT OHIO FAMILIES AND JOBS.

Submitted By: Ohioans Protecting the Constitution
Alan Melamed, Chair Mary Jo Hudson, Treasurer

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Senator Greg L. DiDonato

Senator Jay Hottinger

Mr. William N. Morgan

Mr. Thomas R. Winters

Dates To Remember

September 28

Absentee balloting begins.

October 30 at noon

Deadline for applying for an absentee ballot by mail for the November 2nd election.

November 1

Deadline for voting an absentee ballot in person at a county board of elections for the November 2nd election.

November 2

Election Day

Polls open 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

For more information contact:

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