

OHIO

ISSUES REPORT

State Issues Ballot Information for the
November 8, 2005 General Election



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

This publication gives Ohioans an opportunity to compare the arguments for and against the five statewide issues on the November 8 ballot. The ballot language for each issue was certified by the bi-partisan Ohio Ballot Board. The explanation for Issue 1 was certified by the Ohio Ballot board; the arguments for and against Issue 1 were prepared by state legislators appointed by the General Assembly and are printed as submitted to my office. The explanations/arguments for and against Issues 2 through 5 were prepared by persons appointed by the committee representing the petitioners and persons appointed by the General Assembly, respectfully, and also are printed as submitted to my office.

We urge all Ohioans to study the issue carefully and then vote on November 8.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. Kenneth Blackwell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "J".

OHIO BALLOT BOARD

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Secretary of State J. Kenneth Blackwell

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STATE ISSUE 1

1 PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT (Proposed by Resolution of the General Assembly of Ohio)

To adopt Section 2p of Article VIII of the Constitution of the State of Ohio.

This proposed amendment would:

1. Be for the purpose of creating and preserving jobs and stimulating economic growth in all areas of Ohio by improving local government public infrastructure, including roads and bridges, expanding Ohio's research and development capabilities to promote product innovation and commercialization, and preparing sites and facilities for economic development in Ohio.
2. Declare that local government public infrastructure, and financial assistance for research and development and development of sites and facilities in Ohio for and in support of industry, commerce and distribution (all referred to together as "development purposes") are public purposes.
3. Authorize the state to issue bonds to finance, or assist in financing, public infrastructure capital improvements for local governments. Authorize the state to issue bonds to provide financial assistance for research and development in support of Ohio industry, commerce, and business, and authorize state and local governments and state supported and state-assisted institutions of higher education to issue bonds and provide other financial assistance to support research and development purposes as provided for by law. Authorize the state to issue bonds to pay costs, or assist others in the payment of costs, of projects for the purpose of developing sites and facilities in Ohio.
4. Limit the total principal amount of general obligation bonds issued under this amendment for financing development purposes as follows: no more than \$1.35 billion for local government public infrastructure with no more than \$120 million in each of the first five fiscal years and no more than \$150 million in each of the next five fiscal years; no more than \$500 million for research and development purposes with no more than \$100 million in each of the first three fiscal years and no more than \$50 million in any other fiscal year; and no more than \$150 million for developing sites and facilities with no more than \$30 million in each of the first three fiscal years and no more than \$15 million in any other fiscal year; provided that any principal amount that in any prior fiscal year could have been but was not issued may also subsequently be issued.
5. Require bonds for infrastructure capital improvements and developing sites and facilities mature no later than thirty (30) years after their date of issuance and for research and development purposes mature no later than twenty (20) years after

their date of issuance, and that any refunding obligations mature no later than the permitted maturity date for the obligations being refunded; and provide that bonds for research and development purposes and developing sites and facilities will not be subject to the limits on state debt service under Section 17 of Article VIII or the prohibitions against lending aid and credit in Sections 4 and 6 of Article VIII of the Ohio Constitution.

6. Authorize the General Assembly to pass laws providing for its implementation, including laws providing procedures for issuing obligations, ensuring the accountability of all state funding provided for development purposes, restricting or limiting the taking by eminent domain of private property for disposition to private sector entities for research and development and the development of sites and facilities, and for the implementation of the research and development purposes to benefit people and businesses otherwise qualified for the receipt of funding in all areas of Ohio, including economically disadvantaged business and individuals in all areas of the state, including by the use Ohio products, materials, services and labor to the extent practicable.

If passed, this amendment will be effective immediately.

A majority yes vote is necessary for passage.

	YES	SHALL THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT BE ADOPTED?
	NO	

EXPLANATION OF ISSUE 1

The purpose of this amendment is to create jobs and stimulate economic growth in Ohio.

This amendment creates and preserves jobs, enhances educational opportunities, and improves the quality of life and general well-being of people and businesses in all areas of Ohio by improving local government public infrastructure, expanding Ohio's research capabilities to promote product innovation, development and commercialization, and preparing economic development sites and facilities in Ohio. It declares that local government public infrastructure, and financial assistance for research and preparation of economic development sites and facilities in Ohio for and in support of industry, commerce and distribution (all referred to together as "development purposes") are public purposes.

Local Government Capital Improvements: This amendment authorizes the State of Ohio to issue bonds to pay for or help local governments pay for the cost of public infrastructure capital improvements of local governments, including roads and bridges, wastewater treatment systems, water supply systems, solid waste disposal facilities, storm water and sanitary collection, storage and treatment facilities, including real property or interests in real property, facilities and equipment related or incidental thereto, and the cost of acquisition, construction, reconstruction, expansion, improvement, planning and equipping. It limits bond issuance to \$1.35 billion for local government public infrastructure with no more than \$120 million in each of the first five fiscal years and no more than \$150 million in each of the next five fiscal years (plus in each case the principal amount of those obligations that in any prior fiscal year could have been but were not issued), and provides that no general obligations for public infrastructure capital improvements may be issued under this amendment until the existing authority to issue state infrastructure bonds under Section 2m of Article VIII, Ohio Constitution has been used. The amendment requires these general obligations to mature no later than thirty (30) years after their date of issuance and that any refunding obligations mature no later than the permitted maturity date for the obligations being refunded.

Research and Development: This amendment authorizes the state to issue bonds to provide financial assistance for research and development in support of Ohio industry, commerce, and business, including research and product innovation, development, and commercialization as provided for by law, but excluding purposes provided for in Section 15 of Article VIII, Ohio Constitution. The amendment also authorizes state-supported and state-assisted institutions of higher education to issue obligations to pay costs of research and development purposes. It limits the amount of the state general obligations that can be issued in each of the first three fiscal years to no more than \$100 million and in any other fiscal year to no more than \$50 million (plus the principal amount of those

obligations that in any prior fiscal year could have been but were not issued). It requires these state general obligations to mature no later than twenty (20) years after their date of issuance and that any refunding obligations mature no later than the permitted maturity date for the obligations being refunded, and provides these state general obligations will not be subject to the limits on state debt service under Section 17 of Article VIII of the Ohio Constitution.

Job-Ready Sites: This amendment authorizes the state to issue general obligation bonds to pay costs, or assist others in the payment of costs of projects for the purpose of developing sites and facilities (Job-Ready Sites) in Ohio for and in support of industry, commerce, distribution, and research and development, including constructing and improving facilities, site preparation and cleanup, the acquisition of real estate, and providing public infrastructure improvements. The amendment limits the amount of these state general obligations that can be issued in each of the first three fiscal years to no more than \$30 million and in any other fiscal year no more than \$15 million (plus the principal amount of those obligations that in any prior fiscal year could have been but were not issued). It requires these state general obligations to mature no later than thirty (30) years after their date of issuance and that any refunding obligations mature no later than the permitted maturity date for the outstanding obligations being refunded. It also provides these state general obligations would not be subject to the limits on state debt service under Section 17 of Article VIII of the Ohio Constitution.

This amendment authorizes the General Assembly to pass laws providing for its implementation, including laws ensuring the accountability of all state funding provided for the development purposes, and restricting or limiting the taking of private property for private sector entities. The implementation of research and development purposes is to benefit individuals and businesses otherwise qualified for the receipt of funding, including economically disadvantaged businesses and individuals in all areas of the state, including by the use of Ohio products, materials, services, and labor to the extent practicable.

If passed, this Amendment will be effective immediately.

STATE ISSUE 1 – ARGUMENT FOR

A YES vote on Issue 1, the Jobs for Ohio bond issue, will help create and keep more good jobs without raising taxes.

- **YES ON ISSUE 1 HELPS OHIO KEEP AND CREATE JOBS:** Issue 1 allows for investment in research and development to create well-paying jobs and industry in all regions of Ohio.
 - o Issue 1 benefits all Ohioans through research for alternative fuels reducing our foreign oil dependence, through medical research that cures diseases such as heart ailments and cancer, and through greater biotech research that helps our state's agriculture.
 - o Issue 1 encourages partnerships between our state's research universities and the private sector to create new products and jobs to replace those lost offshore.
 - o Issue 1 will also provide grants to local governments to build public improvements for immediate expansion of new business facilities.
- **YES ON ISSUE 1 RENEWS OHIO'S LOCAL GOVERNMENT ROAD AND BRIDGE BUILDING PROGRAM:** Two-thirds of the Issue 1 funds will be used by local governments for building and renovating infrastructure like roads, bridges, and water and sewer lines. Issue 1 renews a local government program first approved by Ohio voters in 1987 and again in 1995. It has created many thousands of jobs and improved critical infrastructure throughout Ohio's 88 counties.
- **YES ON ISSUE 1 WON'T INCREASE TAXES:** Bonds authorized by Issue 1 will not require a tax increase now or in the future. Repayment of these bonds is already built into Ohio's long-range budget plans. This package will generate new revenues for State and local governments by expanding our job base.
- **ISSUE 1 WAS PUT ON THE BALLOT WITH STRONG REPUBLICAN AND DEMOCRATIC SUPPORT IN THE OHIO LEGISLATURE.**

We urge a YES vote on Issue 1.

COMMITTEE TO PREPARE ARGUMENTS FOR ISSUE 1:

STATE ISSUE 1 – ARGUMENT AGAINST

Issue 1 is not about jobs; it's about long-term debt. **PASSAGE OF THIS AMMENDMENT WILL ELIMINATE FOUR TAXPAYER PROTECTIONS IN THE OHIO CONSTITUTION**, including prohibitions against government:

- Spending tax revenue for uses other than the originally levied purpose;
- Incurring or renewing bond indebtedness in the absence of a legislative plan to collect enough tax revenue to pay the annual interest and to provide a fund for the redemption of bonds;
- Engaging in joint ventures with, or lending aid and credit, to private entities; and
- Entering into debt for an internal improvement.

Issue 1 combines three issues with the expressed purpose of securing statewide support for Governor Taft's failed Third Frontier Initiative for research and development. Voters will not have the opportunity to vote separately on the following debt proposals:

1. **RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT/THIRD FRONTIER:** On the recommendation of out-of-state reviewers, a three-member governor-appointed committee will create unfair competitive advantage by doling out \$500 million in corporate subsidies.
2. **PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE:** The issuance of \$1.35 billion in bonds is premature since \$240 million from the previous infrastructure initiative hasn't been exhausted and new bonds are not expected to be issued until December 2009. **Voting NO will not jeopardize local projects** for roads, bridges, or water treatment facilities.
3. **SITE/FACILITY DEVELOPMENT:** Taxpayers will pay \$150 million for the development of private industrial and business sites. In light of the recent Supreme Court eminent domain ruling, it is important to know that Issue 1 does NOT override the home rule authority that permits municipalities to take private property for economic development.

Issue 1 is a bold attempt to bypass the constitutional cap on debt service. Today's newborn will be paying off these bonds, plus interest and debt service, thirty years from now.

Please vote NO on Issue 1.

Tom Brinkman, Jr.
Diana M. Fessler

ISSUE 2

ARGUMENT AND EXPLANATION FOR ISSUE 2

2

PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

(Proposed by Initiative Petition)

To adopt Section 6 of Article XVII of the Constitution of the State of Ohio.

In order to expand to all electors the choice to vote by absentee ballot in all elections, this amendment would:

- Provide that any person qualified to vote in an election is entitled during the thirty-five days prior to the election to receive and to cast a ballot by mail or in person at the county board of elections or additional location designated by the board. No reason for casting such a ballot shall be required. When a ballot is mailed to an elector, the county board of elections shall also provide a pre-addressed, postage pre-paid envelope for returning the ballot to that county board of elections.
- An elector to whom a ballot has been mailed, but which has not been received by the issuing county board of elections prior to the election, may cast a provisional ballot on election day. If the elector's first ballot is received by the tenth day following the election, the provisional ballot shall not be counted. A ballot which is received by the issuing board by mail no later than the tenth day following the election shall be treated as timely cast if it contains a postmark not later than the day of the election.

A majority yes vote is necessary for passage.

YES	SHALL THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT BE ADOPTED?
NO	

Vote **YES** to expand to all Ohio registered voters the option to vote up to 35 days prior to Election Day by mail or in person at the appropriate local board of elections.

Long lines at voting booths in recent years, inclement weather and work demands of Ohioans have discouraged some citizens from voting on Election Day. Issue 2 will make voting more convenient and easier for all Ohioans. Currently, only a few categories of persons are permitted to vote early by absentee ballot.

Issue 2 will allow all Ohioans to vote by mail.

Issue 2 will allow all Ohioans to vote in person at their local board of elections.

Issue 2 will allow Ohioans to vote up to 35 days prior to Election Day

Issue 2 will make voting more convenient and increase the opportunity to vote.

Issue 2 will increase voter participation by Ohioans in elections.

Increased participation in elections will make government more accountable to the people of Ohio and combat undue influence by a few and the corruption that currently pervades state government.

RESTORE CONFIDENCE

END CORRUPTION

VOTE YES

Submitted by: Reform Ohio Now, Inc., 3886 N. High Street,
Columbus, Ohio 43214

Herb Asher and Ron Alexander, Co-Chairs

For more information: www.ReformOhioNow.org

Vote No on Issue 2 for the following reasons.

❖ First, the adoption of this amendment is likely to lead to a significant increase in cases of fraudulent voting in Ohio, as experienced in other states that have adopted similar proposals. The proposed amendment does not contain a reliable method to protect the integrity of votes cast early, nor does it provide adequate safeguards to ensure that only eligible and qualified voters would be able to use these procedures.

❖ Second, this amendment is not necessary because Ohio law already contains generous absentee voting provisions. Currently, any Ohio voter with a legitimate reason for being absent on Election Day can obtain an absentee ballot. In fact, there are 16 reasons that allow absentee voting under current Ohio law, including: military service; health and physical disability issues; work related issues; being age 62 or older; or, simply that the voter expects to be absent from the county on Election Day for personal reasons.

❖ Third, the proposed amendment does not ensure that every Ohioan will have the same opportunity to vote early. The amendment does not establish a statewide standard that must be followed for designation of times and locations for early voting. The rules governing early voting could vary widely from county to county, because the amendment gives each county Board of Elections the discretion to designate the times and locations for early voting.

For all of these reasons,

VOTE NO ON ISSUE TWO.

3

PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

(Proposed by Initiative Petition)

To adopt Section 5 of Article XVII of the Constitution of the State of Ohio.

In order to establish revised limits on political contributions, establish prohibitions regarding political contributions and provide for revised public disclosure requirements of campaign contributions and expenditures, this amendment would:

- Establish the following limits on political contributions:

Annual limitation on contributions by individuals:

\$25,000 in total to all candidates for state executive offices and member of the General Assembly, political parties, PACs, multi-candidate PACs, and small donor PACs.

Contributions from individuals: \$50 to a small donor PAC; \$500 to a political action committee; \$1,000 to a candidate for member of the general assembly, a multi-candidate PAC, or a county or local political party; \$2,000 to a candidate for statewide executive office; and \$5,000 to a national or state political party.

Contributions from political action committees (PACs):

\$500 to a candidate for member of the General Assembly or another PAC or multi-candidate PAC and \$1,000 to a candidate for statewide executive office or a political party.

Contributions from multi-candidate PACs: \$500 to a PAC; \$1,000 to a candidate for member of the general assembly or another multi-candidate PAC; \$2,000 to a candidate for statewide executive office or a county or local political party; and \$10,000 to a national or state political party.

Contributions from small donor PACs: \$500 to a PAC; \$1,000 to a multi-candidate PAC; \$5,000 to a local or county political party; \$10,000 to a candidate for member of the general assembly; \$20,000 to a candidate for statewide executive office; and \$25,000 to a national or state political party.

Contributions from candidates' committees: \$500 to a candidate for member of the general assembly; a PAC or multi-candidate PAC and \$1,000 to a candidate for statewide executive office.

Contributions from affiliated national, state, county, and local political parties combined: \$25,000 to a candidate for member of the general assembly and \$100,000 to a candidate for statewide executive office.

ISSUE 3

- Provide that limits on contributions to candidates are per election; all other limits are per year; limits on contributions to political parties apply to all donations regardless of purpose; and limits on contributions to and by PACs apply as a single limit on affiliated committees.
- Define a “small donor action committee” as a PAC that receives contributions only from individuals of no more than \$50 per year per contributor, except that a non-profit membership organization may contribute funds from regular membership dues of its members to small donor action committees that it establishes or are established by a non-profit membership organization with which it is a member or affiliated, provided that no more than \$50 per year per member may be contributed.
- Define a “multi-candidate political committee” as a PAC that has been in existence for at least six months, received contributions from at least 50 individuals in the 24 months preceding qualifying, and made contributions to at least five candidates with no more than half being to one candidate.
- Define “independent expenditure” as an expenditure made with a purpose of influencing a candidate election, that is not made in coordination, cooperation, or consultation with any candidate at the election; and also as any communication to the public during the period 60 days prior to a primary or general election that contains a reference to a person who is a candidate at the election for state executive office or member of the General Assembly, regardless of the purpose of the communication.
- Establish restrictions on contributions, including by political parties and corporations and other business entities and from individuals under age 18 and prohibit earmarked contributions.
- Prohibit statewide and general assembly candidates and office holders from:
 - *Soliciting contributions to more than one political action committee, small donor action committee or multi-candidate political committee in a calendar year.
 - *Soliciting contributions to a committee supporting or opposing a state ballot issue.
 - *Appearing in advertising in connection with a state ballot issue, unless the candidate or the candidate’s campaign committee pays the entire cost.
- Require public disclosure of political contributions and expenditures, including independent expenditures. Require candidates for state executive offices or member of the general assembly to electronically file with a single office within one business day of receipt of a contribution in the amount of \$1,000 or more received during the period 30 days before an

election.

- Provide for no limits on a candidate’s capacity to spend his or her own money in connection with his or her own campaign, and have the effect of repealing existing law allowing an opponent to be exempt from contribution limits.
- Permit labor unions, and other nonprofit unincorporated membership organizations, to contribute funds from regular membership dues paid by the organization’s individual members to a small donor action committee. The small donor action committee is not required to report the names of individuals who contribute in this fashion.
- Prohibit committees registered with and regulated by the Federal Election Commission from making contributions or independent expenditures in connection with any nonfederal candidate election in this state or making a contribution to a political party in this state for nonfederal elections.
- Prohibit out-of-state political parties and candidate campaign committees from making contributions or expenditures in connection with any candidate election or making a contribution to a political party in the state.
- Prohibit candidates from receiving contributions from political action committees, small donor action committees or multi-candidate political committees if the candidate exercises any decision making authority with respect to the committee or has solicited contributions to the committee in the current or prior four years

A majority yes vote is necessary for passage.

	YES	SHALL THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT BE ADOPTED?
	NO	

ARGUMENT AND EXPLANATION FOR STATE ISSUE 3

Vote **YES** to restore confidence, level the playing field and reduce the influence of big money contributors in politics by significantly limiting campaign contributions to statewide and state legislative candidates and political parties.

Ohio's state government has become mired in scandal. A "pay-to-play" culture - reflected in "Coingate," undisclosed golf outings, and ongoing federal and state investigations - permeates state government. The endless drive to raise campaign money has tempted too many to cross ethical lines.

Rather than limiting the influence of big money, the General Assembly made the problem worse last year by raising individual contribution limits from \$2,500 to \$10,000! The legislature also lifted a ban on corporate contributions to political parties.

Issue 4 will restore reasonable contribution limits and reduce the influence of big money in government. Under this amendment, individual contributions will be limited to \$2,000 per election for statewide candidates and \$1,000 per election for state legislative candidates. The ban on corporate contributions to political parties will be restored.

The current influence of big money contributors in state government has corrupted government. Ohio's sky high contribution limits only widen the gap between the "haves" and the "have nots" making it increasingly difficult for average citizens to compete in the public arena. Government stops listening to the average citizen and only hears the big money contributor.

Big money allows special interests to shape policy and exercise greater influence over legislators than the voters who elect them. One need only look to the scandals that now plague Ohio.

RESTORE CONFIDENCE

END CORRUPTION

VOTE YES

Submitted by: Reform Ohio Now, Inc., 3886 N. High Street,
Columbus, Ohio 43214
Herb Asher and Ron Alexander, Co-Chairs
For more information: www.ReformOhioNow.org

PROPOSED ARGUMENT AGAINST ISSUE 3

Vote No on Issue 3 for the following reasons.

- ❖ The proposed amendment would change how Ohio political campaigns are funded to benefit the wealthy and labor unions, to the disadvantage of all other Ohioans.
- ❖ The proposed amendment allows labor unions to funnel unlimited amounts of money into the political process through a new type of political organization that is deceptively labeled a "small donor" action committee. In addition, there would be no obligation placed on labor unions to provide full disclosure regarding the source of this money, which could even be given people outside Ohio.
- ❖ The proposed amendment would give an unfair advantage to wealthy candidates because they would be permitted to use unlimited amounts of personal money in their campaigns. However, unlike Ohio's current law, the proposed amendment would not permit an individual running against a wealthy opponent to raise additional campaign dollars to make the election fair and competitive.
- ❖ The proposed amendment would also place drastic restrictions on the ability of all other Ohioans to raise money to combat the undue influence of the wealthy and labor unions in Ohio elections. These restrictions are designed to silence the voices of ordinary Ohioans in the elections process.

For all of these reasons,

VOTE NO ON ISSUE THREE

4

PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT (Proposed by Initiative Petition)

To amend Article XI of the Constitution of the State of Ohio.

To provide for the creation of a state redistricting commission with responsibility for creating legislative districts, this amendment would:

- Replace the current provisions of Article XI of the Ohio Constitution, including the two existing separate processes for creating legislative districts and for electing representatives to Congress and representatives and senators to the Ohio General Assembly with a new state commission.
- Provide that the new commission would be composed of five members, two of whom would be chosen by sitting judges, and the remaining members appointed by the first two or chosen by lot. The terms of the members of the commission shall be until the later of the adoption of the redistricting plans required to be adopted under the Article or the conclusion of all litigation in any court regarding such plans or the commission's responsibilities, actions or operations.
- Provide that a primary criterion to be utilized by the new commission in creating legislative districts would be to ensure that the districts are competitive, according to a mathematical formula contained in the Amendment.
- Provide that the commission must adopt a qualifying plan with the highest "competitiveness number," as defined in the proposed Amendment. The Amendment defines the "competitiveness number" of a plan by a mathematical formula, that is the product of the number of balanced districts multiplied by two, plus the total number of other remaining competitive districts, minus the total number of unbalanced uncompetitive districts multiplied by two. The competitiveness number for a general assembly plan is the sum of the competitiveness number for the house of representatives districts and the competitiveness number for the senate districts. Provide that the "measure of competition" of a legislative district be based on a calculation using the two average partisan indexes for the district, which are calculated on the basis of the percentage of votes received by each of the two partisan candidates who received the two highest vote totals statewide in each of the three closest general elections during the four previous even-numbered years prior to adopting a redistricting plan, keeping the index for one of the partisan affiliations always as the minuend and the index for the other partisan affiliation always as the subtrahend from district to district throughout a redistricting plan.
- Provide that the commission may consider whether to alter a plan to preserve communities of interest based on

geography, economics, or race, so long as the reconfiguration does not result in a competitiveness number that is more than two points lower for a congressional plan and four points lower for a general assembly plan.

- Provide that the commission may design and adopt a redistricting plan if the plan meets the same criteria and has a competitive number equal to or greater than each submitted qualifying plan.
- Provide a method for the commission to assign state districts for senators whose term do not expire at the end of the first even-numbered year following adoption of the plan.
- Provide that legislative district boundaries shall change in 2007 and, thereafter, every year ending in one following a federal decennial census.
- Provide that the supreme court of Ohio has exclusive original jurisdiction involving redistricting plans adopted under the amendment, but limits such jurisdiction to ordering the commission to perform duties required under the amendment and prohibit the court from revising or adopting a plan.
- Provide for open meetings, public hearings, and certain public record requirements regarding the activities of the commission.
- Provide that the general assembly must appropriate sufficient funds for the commission to perform its duties. The commission may expend funds as it, in its discretion, deems necessary.

A majority yes vote is necessary for passage.

	YES	SHALL THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT BE ADOPTED?
	NO	

ARGUMENT AND EXPLANATION FOR STATE ISSUE 4

Vote **YES** to restore competitiveness to Congressional and State legislative races in Ohio.

Issue 4 will help make politicians more accountable and responsive to constituents.

Issue 4 will combat corruption in state government by making politicians listen more to constituents and less to big donors and special interests.

Issue 4 designates an independent, non-partisan commission to draw legislative districts with a goal of making the districts competitive, while preserving communities and minority rights.

The independent commission will replace the current system, which allows politicians to draw the districts to serve their own partisan interests. Currently, using sophisticated computer models, the political party in power manipulates the districts to maximize the number of seats it is likely to win and minimize the number likely to be won by the opposing party. The result is “safe seats” where incumbents almost never lose.

Consider these shocking statistics, which reflect the problem nationally and in Ohio:

- In 435 U.S. House races last year, only 13 seats changed party;
- In Ohio, every Congressman and State Senator up for election was re-elected and only a handful of State House incumbents lost;
- In Ohio, the average margins of victory were 44 points in Congressional races, 35 points in State Senate races, and 38 points in State House races.

As one commentator states, “Competitive elections for the state legislature and Congress, with a handful of exceptions, no longer exist in Ohio.”

Issue 4 will restore accountability by making elections meaningful again and in so doing make corruption less likely. Applying strict criteria in the amendment and considering proposals from the public the independent commission will maximize the number of competitive districts in Ohio and enhance the influence of all voters in the electoral process.

RESTORE CONFIDENCE

END CORRUPTION

VOTE YES

Submitted by: Reform Ohio Now, Inc., 3886 N. High Street,
Columbus, Ohio 43214
Herb Asher and Ron Alexander, Co-Chairs
For more information: www.ReformOhioNow.org

PROPOSED ARGUMENT AGAINST ISSUE 4

Vote No on Issue 4 for the following reasons.

❖ First, Ohio voters lose the ability to hold public officials accountable in the process to create districts for the Ohio General Assembly and the U.S. Congress. Instead, the proposed amendment would place this power in the hands of a new commission that is made up of 5 political appointees. Two of the commission members would be selected by judges and the others may be chosen by lot. The members of the commission would not be required to meet any minimum level of qualifications. Once appointed, the commissioners would serve for an indefinite period of time, and would never be accountable to Ohio voters.

❖ Second, the proposed amendment would grant the commission virtually unlimited power to spend Ohio tax dollars with essentially no control by Ohio voters or other state leaders. No other state commission has this extraordinary spending power.

❖ Third, although today the Ohio Constitution protects your right to vote for someone who represents your community or neighborhood, the proposed amendment would require the commission to focus on political parties. The proposal expressly allows districts to be gerrymandered to ensure that one party or the other wins, rather than ensure that all Ohioans have a fair chance to have a representative who shares their point of view.

❖ Finally, the proposed amendment would remove from the Ohio Constitution the authority of Ohio’s courts to review the commission’s activities. Therefore, unlike all other Ohio public officials, political subdivisions, boards, commissions, and agencies, Ohio citizens would have virtually no ability to challenge the actions of this unelected commission in Ohio’s courts. The commission should not be uniquely unaccountable and placed above the law.

For these reasons,

VOTE NO ON ISSUE FOUR.

ISSUE 5

ARGUMENT AND EXPLANATION FOR ISSUE 5

5

PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

(Proposed by Initiative Petition)

To adopt Section 4 of Article XVII of the Constitution of the State of Ohio.

To create a newly appointed board to administer elections, this amendment would:

- Eliminate responsibility of the elected Ohio Secretary of State to oversee elections.
- Create an appointed board of nine members to administer statewide elections and oversee the existing county boards of elections.
- Provide that the members of the board are appointed as follows: four by the governor, four by the members of the general assembly affiliated with the political party that is not the same as that of the governor, and one by a unanimous vote of the chief justice and justices of the Ohio Supreme Court. The member appointed by the Supreme Court may not be affiliated with a political party. The governor and members of the general assembly must appoint equal numbers of men and women and take into consideration the geographic regions and racial diversity of the state. Members would serve staggered nine-year terms. Members may not hold any elective or other appointive public office, be a candidate for public office, hold a position with a political party, or be a registered lobbyist, and would be prohibited from making or soliciting political contributions and being involved in a candidate or ballot issue campaign.
- Require the state board of elections supervisors to hire an administrative director, to prescribe uniform procedures to be followed by the county boards of elections, to appoint and remove members of the county boards of elections in accordance with statutory provisions, to certify the petitions of candidates for statewide offices and petitions for statewide ballot issues, to certify all equipment and systems used for voting and counting of votes, to approve ballot language for all statewide issues, and to maintain a statewide voter registration file.
- Require the General Assembly to set a reasonable level of compensation for the members of the state board of elections supervisors and to appropriate sufficient funds for the board to be able to fully perform its duties and to compensate such staff and to acquire such equipment, supplies and office space as necessary for such performance.

A majority yes vote is necessary for passage.

	YES	SHALL THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT BE ADOPTED?
	NO	

Vote **YES** to create a bi-partisan and independent state board of elections supervisors to administer elections similar to the county boards of elections.

In recent elections, public confidence in the fairness of the election process has been undermined by actions of the Secretary of State. Citizens need to have trust and confidence restored in their electoral system.

Issue 5 will restore public confidence by replacing the Secretary of State as the state's chief elections officer with a bi-partisan board of elections supervisors similar to the local county boards of elections. If a bi-partisan system is good enough for all 88 counties, it should be good enough for Ohio as a whole.

Issue 5 will lessen partisanship in the administration of elections in Ohio at the state level.

Issue 5 will prevent those who are involved in administering elections at the state level from mixing personal political agendas with their public duties.

Issue 5 will create a bi-partisan board with 9 appointed members—4 appointed by the Governor, 4 appointed by Members of the General Assembly of the opposite party and one member appointed by the Ohio Supreme Court.

Issue 5 will not create another layer of bureaucracy in State government. Money now used for this service could be transferred to the state board of elections.

Issue 5 will not replace the bi-partisan county boards of elections that currently administer and will continue to administer elections at the local level.

RESTORE CONFIDENCE

END CORRUPTION

VOTE YES

Submitted by: Reform Ohio Now, Inc., 3886 N. High Street,
Columbus, Ohio 43214
Herb Asher and Ron Alexander, Co-Chairs
For more information: www.ReformOhioNow.org

PROPOSED ARGUMENT AGAINST ISSUE 5

Vote No on Issue 5 for the following reasons.

- ❖ First, the proposed amendment would effectively end the local control over Ohio elections that is currently exercised by our bipartisan county elections boards.
- ❖ Second, the proposed amendment would create a new statewide elections board that would consist of members who are politically appointed for 9-year terms, and would never be accountable to Ohio voters.
- ❖ Third, the proposed amendment would eliminate the role of Ohio's Secretary of State in Ohio's election system. The new statewide board of political appointees would replace our elected Secretary of State. The proponents of this amendment clearly distrust the ability of Ohio voters to choose a public official to be in charge of Ohio's election system.
- ❖ Fourth, the proposed amendment would essentially give the appointed elections board a "blank check" to spend any and all tax dollars that it desires even if taxes would need to be raised to pay for it. The proposed amendment does not explain why it is necessary to give this group of political appointees the power to spend unlimited amounts of tax dollars, without being accountable to Ohio voters or elected Ohio public officials.

For all of these reasons,

VOTE NO ON ISSUE FIVE.

Dates To Remember

October 4

Absentee balloting begins.

November 5 at Noon

Deadline for applying for an absentee ballot by mail for the November 8th election.

November 7

Deadline for voting an absentee ballot in person at a county board of elections for the November 8th election.

November 8

Election Day

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

For more information, contact:

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