

OHIO – **Vote YES** on Issue 1, August 8th

Why make it harder for voters/citizens to amend the Ohio Constitution?

- A Constitution is not intended to be a policy document! It is a foundational document, functioning to [organize the structure and operation of the government](#), and guarantee [protection of our basic God-given rights](#). (Not manufactured rights fed by the prevailing political winds of the day.)
- A Constitution defines the *process for creating laws*, which can, and do bend with the times. The process for creating and amending the laws should be more stable - the Constitution *should be amended only rarely, and then only with supermajority support*.
- Most constitutions **are** harder to amend:
 - The [U.S. Constitution](#) requires 66% of both Houses or 66% of state legislatures to propose, and 75% of the states to ratify an amendment! This is a much higher bar than the 60% proposed by Issue 1.
 - 32 states don't allow voters to initiate amendments at all - [only 18 states](#) provide for voter-initiated amendments.
- Once passed, a constitutional amendment is virtually chiseled in stone – much harder to repeal or amend than if it were in state law.

What is Issue 1?

- Raises the threshold for voters to approve amendments to the Ohio State Constitution from 50% (simple majority) to 60%.
- For gathering signatures to get the amendment onto the ballot, requires supporters to gather signatures in all 88 counties, rather than only 44 counties as currently required.
 - *This will block supporters from cherry-picking counties for signatures, leaving the other half of the counties without a voice on the issue.*
- Prohibit additional signatures from being added to the initiative petition once it's been submitted.
 - *In other words, no do-overs to get the signatures right.*
- Affects only "[Initiated Amendments](#)" (proposed by the voters), not to "[Referred Amendments](#)" (proposed by the state legislature)
- Read the full [text of the amendment](#) (only 203 words)

Are there alternatives to voter-initiated amendments?

- YES: Ohio voters can propose new laws ([Initiated Statute](#)) as well as constitutional amendments.
- The Initiated Constitutional Amendment is 1 of [6 different types of ballot measures](#) available which give voters direct input to our representative self-government.
- Issue 1 seeks to change only the initiated amendment process. The Initiated Statute also requires only 50% voter approval to enact. *Issue 1 will not change that.*
- Issue 1 elevates the constitution by requiring a higher threshold for amending compared to other ballot measures that give voters influence over state laws.

What's the problem with 50% voter approval for constitutional amendments?

- First off, it's much less than 50% who are approving. Let's do the math for a sample best-case, *well-attended Ohio election (2020 General election)*:
 - 91% of *eligible voters registered*; 74% of *registered voters voted*. If an issue passed in this election with 51% approval, it was actually 34% of *eligible voters* who delivered the approval.
 - For a more typical election with 33% voter turnout, that number would be approval by only 15% of eligible voters or less.

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- Divisive, controversial issues usually pass with narrow margins, and should be enacted through the deliberative legislative process rather than constitutional amendment. Some voter-initiated constitutional amendments that passed by LESS THAN 60% include:
 - (2006) Raise the minimum wage – passed 57% to 43%
 - (2009) Allow casinos in the 4 big Ohio cities – passed 53% to 47%
- Issues that are less controversial and more broadly reflect statewide voter sentiment pass with wider margins, and will not be blocked by the proposed 60% threshold. Some voter-initiated constitutional amendments that passed by MORE THAN 60% include:
 - (1992) Term limits for U.S. and State legislators and Ohio State-level elected offices – 3 separate amendments with combined 68% voter approval
 - (2011) Ohioans freedom to choose health care, health care coverage – passed 66% to 34%
 - (2017) Rights for crime victims – passed 83% to 17%

Look at who's opposing Issue 1:

- Labor Unions, in multiple industries
- Progressive activist groups, including climate change, gun control, pro-choice, voting rights
- Big money from out of state, including ACLU, Planned Parenthood and others.
- Check out their [websites](#) – not a word about how it affects them directly, just parroting the canned false talking points from the 'Vote No' campaign.

Look at who's supporting Issue 1:

- Small business
- Farming & agriculture
- Right to Life
- All with personal statements from their leadership about the direct impact that failure of Issue 1 will have on their industry, constituents or employees.

Why is it so important to get this done on August 8th?

- First in line of radical special interests looking to take advantage of this loophole is “Ohioans for Reproductive Freedom”, working to get an [initiated amendment on the ballot](#) in this November's general election. Under the guise of “reproductive freedom”, this amendment is designed to open the floodgates to literally unrestricted access to abortion and gender “affirming” treatments:
 1. It bestows the “right” to “...reproductive decisions, *including but not limited to...*” This is deliberately open ended, with absolutely no boundaries or definitions in the ballot language.
 2. It refers only to “individuals”, making **no distinction** between minors and adults. There are NO provisions to require parental consent to any procedures or treatments.
 3. “The state shall not ... interfere with ... an individual's voluntary exercise of this right...” So a minor could be taken to a clinic for an abortion or gender “reassignment” surgery by a teacher or a counselor, with no parental notification – and *no consequences*.
- If Issue 1 fails to pass, this anti-parents' rights amendment will likely coast to easy victory.
- [Raise the Wage Ohio](#) is persistent in getting significantly increased minimum wage into the Ohio Constitution. This anti-free market idea is destructive to small business. Originally intended for the 2023 general election, it will now likely be on the November 2024 general election ballot. This will be their 3rd attempt in 4 years.

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- Leftists and special interests realize that when their arguments are weak it's easier to bamboozle (less than) 50% of the voting electorate with deceptive ad campaigns, and bypass the necessary deliberative legislative process that is foundational to our form of self-government. They are exploiting this loophole in our state constitutional process.

About those 'Vote No' arguments:

- Does this destroy "One person one vote"?
 - One person / one vote alludes to pure democracy, i.e. simple majority rule, which can be described as "2 wolves and a lamb, voting on what to have for dinner". The Founding Fathers wisely recognized that a prime directive of our form of self-government must be to enact the will of the majority *while protecting the rights of the minority*. Pure democracy makes that goal unachievable, and it's why we have a Representative Republic rather than a democracy. If Issue 1 passes it will strengthen our Constitution, and thereby strengthen our Representative Republic, not weaken it.
- End of majority rule?
 - Untrue. Period. See talking points above about [initiated statutes](#). Issue 1 does not affect voters' ability to influence or initiate change in state laws.
- It allows a small minority (40%) of voters to veto the majority!
TWO Things (OK, THREE):
 - This is opportunistic hypocrisy – the following organizations who oppose Issue 1 require a higher threshold to amend their own foundational documents (bylaws / constitution):
 - Ohio Democratic Party - 60% required
 - Planned Parenthood – 66% required
 - League of Women Voters – 60% required
 - NAACP – 60% required
 - Columbus Education Association – 75% required
 - One man's "veto by minority" is another's "broad majority support" – which, for this purpose is a reasonable and prudent bar to clear.
 - When we allow 50% of the voters (who voted!) to foist a constitutional amendment on the rest of us, it's actually being done by a small minority of voters! (See explanation above). It is presented as "majority rule", but it more closely resembles *minority faction* – another existential threat to the Republic that the Founders sought to protect against.
- An "Illegal" August 8th election?
 - The Ohio State Legislature has exclusive and ultimate authority on when elections are held. If they collectively agree on the date for an election then it is not illegal – *by definition*.
- It's a power grab by corrupt politicians:
 - If the ultimate pass/fail decision for Issue 1 falls to the voters on August 8th, how is that a power grab by *any* politician, let alone the corrupt ones?
- Billionaires are pouring money in from out of state to support Issue 1!
 - This is happening on both sides of the argument. With cash figures not presently available, the overwhelming evidence is that the "[overwhelming](#)" support enjoyed by the 'Vote NO' campaign is backed by overwhelming financial support – from both in and out of state. It may be immoral (depending on motives) but it's not illegal. 'Vote NO' has the money; 'Vote YES' has the facts and the moral rectitude. This argument is a red herring.