



2023 OHIO SUMMARY: ISSUE 1

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Ohio Issue 1 - Aug. 2023

On August 8, 2023, Ohio will hold a special statewide election for ballot Issue 1 to raise the threshold of voter approval to amend the Ohio State Constitution.

A “YES” vote on Issue 1 ensures Ohio citizens are in charge of their State Constitution, not out-of-state financiers who can redefine the state through deceptively worded amendments.

What is at Stake for Ohio

- ✔ If passed, the measure would strengthen protections against special interest groups’ ability to change Ohio’s constitution.

Passage would raise the voter approval threshold from its current ‘50% plus one vote’ to 60% of the vote. If passed, Issue 1 would take effect 30 days after the election and require future initiated petitions proposing to amend the Ohio State Constitution to obtain valid signatures from a minimum of 5% of eligible voters in each of Ohio’s 88 counties in order to make it on the ballot after 2024.

- ✔ If the measure fails, Ohioans will be left vulnerable to fat-cat special interest groups with out-of-state money who can easily enshrine constitutional measures that interfere with life, liberty, and parental rights. Already lined up for November 2023 is a ballot measure to make unrestricted abortion a “right” for every girl and woman.

Warning - Special Interest Groups Succeeding in Other States

Abortion and LGBTQ activists are working hard to stamp out protections for babies in the womb, religious freedom, and parental rights by enshrining gender and so-called reproductive rights in state constitutions.¹

- ✔ Special interest groups succeeded in enshrining abortion in 3 states: CA, MI, and VT
- ✔ Special interest groups succeeded in enshrining sexual orientation and gender identity provisions in 1 state, NV, with more states in their sights for 2024.

¹ <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/politics-news/abortion-rights-groups-look-new-ballot-measures-2023-2024-rcna61317>

Cutting through the Messaging Noise

Don't change what's not broken?

Many believe that we should not change the current rules if "they've worked for us this far and they're not broken." **The reality is that it is broken**, or soon will be. Issues that should be decided in the State Legislature are being strategically moved to ballot measures with significant funding from progressive groups outside of the state. So far, their strategy is working - not many voters show up to vote in special elections, and ballot measures on major social issues are changing the fabric of the state.

Is Democracy at stake?

Ohio will hear from those who oppose this ballot measure that Issue 1 is a threat to democracy. They will argue that moving the threshold to 60% will unfairly impede the voice of the people. The fact is democracy will be at stake if Issue 1 does not pass. If approved, it would empower voters from across Ohio by requiring signatures from eligible voters in every county to get an initiative on the ballot. If Issue 1 does not pass, special interest groups will continue to cherry-pick voters from only half of the counties across the state. That's democracy at stake!

Why is this important to people of faith?

Pastors, churches, and the Christian community may be reluctant to speak about Issue 1 because they may not see a clear connection to their faith. When King David was gathering an army together at Hebron. He distinguished the sons of Issachar from the ranks because of their unusual gift to discern the times.

Jesus was critical of his generation for their inability to discern the times (Luke 12:54-56).

Let's not miss what is right in front of us!

There is a clear threat to the social fabric of Ohio. The problem at hand...the Ohio Constitution is in the crosshairs of special interest groups who know they can easily amend the rights of Ohioans and **enshrine mandated immorality in the State Constitution** - with just one vote. Their efforts must be stopped.

The left has a well-laid plan to take advantage of Ohio's simple majority voting rule that allows 50% plus one vote to add a protected right to the State Constitution. But what the left has failed to account for is the church.

What Is at Stake for the Nation

The passage of Issue 1 is critical to Ohio and the entire nation. When Constitutional rights are at stake, states should make sure there is widespread support before making a change to the Constitution.

Progressive leftists, many calling themselves atheists and agnostics, have set their sights on using the simple majority voting rule of 50% plus one vote to amend state constitutions and accomplish their objective of eliminating Christian values state-by-state.

Amending state constitutions is the most permanent form of changing laws as opposed to statutes or executive orders which can be changed at the next election cycle.

These leftist progressives are strategically pooling their money, domineering the airwaves, and using deceptive and misleading messaging to coerce voters to buy into their plan.

Ohio is their first “red-state” target in a long-term strategy to reshape states by overtaking constitutionally protected freedoms - life, religious liberty, and parental rights - through the constitutional amendment process, and strike a crushing blow to Christian values.

The Ohio State Legislature caught wind of their strategy and called for a special election August 8, 2023, to allow Ohio voters to raise the voting threshold for constitutional change to 60% voter approval, thus making it harder to infringe upon unalienable rights.

“And I looked and arose and said to the nobles and to the officials and to the rest of the people, “Do not be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your homes.” Neh 4:14 ESV

Now more than ever, America needs the church to stand up to the strong-arm tactics of the far-left and protect our most basic freedoms - and state constitutions.

It is about visibility, engagement, and getting out to vote. What happens in Ohio in 2023 will set a model for how to avoid constitutional manipulation in other states.

Romans 1:8 “First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world.”

State Constitutions

State governments possess reserved powers not granted to the federal government. Individual states are endowed with the autonomy to be run by the citizens of their state.

State constitutions formally protect and address:

- ✔ The character and conception of state government
- ✔ State culture and state traditions
- ✔ State history and the unique values citizens hold dear

State constitutions affect citizens' lives more than the federal constitution. They tend to be much longer and more specific about life, liberty, and property rights, etc. for the citizens within their states. State constitutions cannot infringe on the US Constitution, but they can add additional rights for citizens of that state.

Amending State Constitutions

From abortion rights, voter integrity, and land use to gender ideology and protecting life, state constitutions are being amended at the ballot box more often without voters having a full understanding of the ramifications. These changes can be significant and often redefine the culture of a state in just one election cycle.

Amending state constitutions must be put to a vote of the people in every state but Delaware. Placing state constitutional amendments on the ballot brings the vote for change directly to the people, however, ballot wording can oftentimes be very confusing.

Because 26 states allow citizens to initiate a constitutional amendment to the ballot, special interest groups see this as an easy way to work through a few rouge state residents to funnel their agenda and out-of-state money into changing the state's constitution.

Amending state constitutions is easier than amending the federal constitution. Most states only require a majority vote (50% plus one) to enshrine an amendment change.

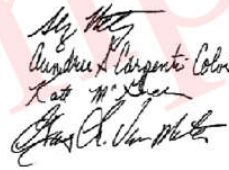
Vote Thresholds for Amending State Constitutions

Most states only require a simple majority (50% +1) of the vote for a state constitutional amendment to pass.

States are beginning to catch on to the fact that special interest groups are manipulating this constitutional amendment process. Progressives have upped their strategy to force national acceptance of abortion and gender ideology by changing state constitutions rather than trying to change the federal constitution.

State Vote Percent Thresholds for Constitutional Amendment:

- ✔ **66.67% vote threshold:** NH
- ✔ **60% vote threshold:** AZ, IL
- ✔ **States with 55% threshold:** CO
- ✔ **50% + 1 vote threshold:**
AL, AR, CA, CT, GA, IA, ID, IN, KS, KY, LA, MD, ME, MI, MO, MT, NC, ND, NJ, NM, NV, NY, **OH**, OK, OR, PA, RI, SC, SD, TX, VA, VT, WA, WI, WV
- ✔ **Special rules govern the vote for passage:**
MA, MI, MN, NE, TN, WY

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| OFFICIAL QUESTIONS AND ISSUES BALLOT | | |
| Athens County | Special Election | August 8, 2023 |
| <p>Instructions to Voter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To vote: completely darken the oval (●) to the left of your choice. • Do not mark the ballot for more choices than allowed. Vote either "Yes" or "No." • If you mark the ballot for more choices than permitted, that question will not be counted. • Before casting your ballot, if you make a mistake or want to change your vote: return your ballot to an election official and get a new ballot. You may ask for a new ballot up to two times. | | |
| <p>Issue 1</p> <p>Proposed Constitutional Amendment</p> <p>Elevating the Standards to Qualify for an Initiated Constitutional Amendment and to Pass a Constitutional Amendment</p> <p>Proposed by Joint Resolution of the General Assembly</p> <p>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</p> <p>A majority yes vote is necessary for the amendment to pass.</p> <p>The proposed amendment would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 electors of each county based on the total vote in the county for governor in the last preceding election. • Specify that additional signatures may not be added to an initiative petition proposing to amend the Constitution of the State of Ohio that is filed with the Secretary of State on or after January 1, 2024 proposing to amend the Constitution of the State of Ohio. <p>If passed, the amendment will be effective immediately.</p> <p>SHALL THE AMENDMENT BE APPROVED?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="radio"/> No</p> | | |
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| | | Board Members |
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| Athens Ward 1, Precinct 1 | Typ:01 Seq:0001 | |

