



Be a *Vote* for the Voiceless

WHAT IS ISSUE 1?

Understanding the August 8, 2023, Ballot Initiative

Issue 1 is a proposed amendment to the Ohio Constitution that protects our state's most important document. The ballot language, which is only 131 words, reads:

ELEVATING THE STANDARDS TO QUALIFY FOR AND TO PASS
ANY CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

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.

Why are we voting in August?

The urgent need to protect Ohio from out-of-state special interest groups, which continue to pour millions of political donations into Ohio in the hopes of changing our state Constitution, prompted the Ohio General Assembly to refer Issue 1 to the August ballot.

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WHY IS ISSUE 1 GOOD FOR OHIO?

Issue 1 protects 30,000 unborn lives every year.

Right now, Planned Parenthood and the ACLU working to enshrine abortion up to birth, without parental consent, in our state Constitution. Issue 1 makes it more difficult for this dangerous and deadly proposal to be inserted into our Constitution.

The abortion industry is a multi-million dollar force in America and will relentlessly spend political cash to amend our Constitution if the threshold is only 50 percent plus one. Elevating the threshold to 60 percent will establish an important protection to save the lives of unborn children and maintain parental rights.

If Planned Parenthood succeeds in amending the state Constitution, an estimated 30,000 children will lose their life at the hands of the abortion industry in Ohio every year.

Issue 1 protects Ohio's Constitution from out-of-state special interest agendas.

For decades, corporate interests have taken advantage of the low threshold currently required (just 50 percent of the vote plus one) to amend the Ohio Constitution.

For example, Ohioans voted against legalizing casino gambling four times in the last 20 years. Because the gambling industry only needed to get over the 50-percent threshold, their fifth attempt to lock a gambling monopoly in the state Constitution succeeded with a mere 52 percent of the vote.

Issue 1 protects our Constitution from these political games. As Ohio Senate Majority Leader Rob McColley and Representative Brian Stewart recently wrote in their official statement of support for Issue 1, "By raising the threshold for Constitutional amendments to 60 percent, the People will ensure amendments have widespread support."

Issue 1 safeguards the Ohio Constitution from other radical proposals.

From legalized recreational marijuana, to decriminalizing fentanyl possession, to raising taxes, to allowing sex change surgeries on minors without parental consent, to repealing election integrity laws, the ACLU and other special interest groups have publicly stated their intention to place their entire political agenda into our state Constitution.

Issue 1 will send the clear message that our Constitution is not up for sale and help fend off these dangerous proposals.

Issue 1 aligns Ohio's constitutional amendment process more closely to the U.S. constitutional amendment process.

Our nation's Founders understood that widespread support was needed to modify the foundational charter that enumerates our rights as U.S. citizens. That's why amending the U.S. Constitution requires a supermajority: two-thirds of the vote in both chambers of Congress and three-fourths of the state legislatures. As a result, the U.S. Constitution has approximately 7,500 words. In comparison, the Ohio Constitution has more than 67,000.

In most other states, greater protections are in place to ensure Constitutional amendments have broad support before being enshrined in the state's most crucial document. Ohio is one of only 10 states that allows a simple majority to amend the Constitution, which has resulted in an influx often-harmful alterations to our Constitution.

Issue 1 preserves existing voter rights.

Issue 1 ensures voters still have the ability to pass new laws or change existing Ohio law by a simple majority, while ensuring that the more weighty Constitutional changes require greater, more widespread support to be enacted.

Issue 1 does not change the initiated statute process, which allows voters to collect signatures and place an issue on the ballot to change Ohio law (as opposed to the Constitution). Issue 1 also does not affect the referendum process, which voters can use to repeal a law passed by the General Assembly.

Lastly, Issue 1 does not change or affect any voter's ability to register to vote or go to the polls.

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WHO SUPPORTS ISSUE 1?

Along with Center for Christian Virtue, Right to Life Action Coalition of Ohio and Ohio Right to Life support Issue 1.

Business leaders—including the National Federation of Independent Businesses, Ohio Chamber of Commerce, and Ohio Restaurant Association—also support Issue 1 due to the threat of tax increases and other burdensome regulations being locked into our state Constitution.

Governor Mike DeWine and U.S. Senator JD Vance are among the state leaders who have given their support to Issue 1.



Pledge to Vote and Get Urgent Election Resources

Unite with Christians across Ohio to protect life
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