



Applied Information Resources Newsletter

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Applied Information Resources is a non-profit, public policy research and community information organization dedicated to:

- Citizen education on public issues.
- Community Issues Forums on timely topics
- Providing the best possible information to decision makers responding to changing human and urban needs.

Applied Information Resources

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The Need to Defeat Issue 1 On August 8th

by **Bill Woods**

Ohio voters who want to preserve democracy in this State must make certain to vote in the Special Election on Tuesday August 8th. They need to vote "no" on Issue 1, a proposed Ohio Constitutional Amendment that would dramatically change the process for initiating and passing Constitutional Amendments. If approved, this proposal would make it much more difficult to pass a citizen initiated Ohio Constitutional Amendment proposal.

What changes are included in Issue 1? If approved, it would require an Amendment proposal to receive a 60-percent majority of those who voted in order to become law instead of a simple majority. It would also raise the number of signatures of registered

voters collected on petitions, and it would require signatures from all eighty-eight counties instead of the current requirement of forty-four counties to qualify a proposal for the Ohio ballot.

What motivated the Republican majority in the Senate and House to draft this Amendment proposal that would change the process that was put in place for amending the Ohio Constitution in 1913, and what further compelled them to establish August 8th for voting on this proposal? For one thing, it fits the pattern of an autocratic leaning GOP to decrease the rights of citizens to influence government actions and policies. Secondly, many Republican lawmakers

want to prevent voters from initiating proposals to protect a woman's rights to have an abortion in reaction to the Supreme Court's overturning the Roe v. Wade decision last year. In Ohio, such an initiative in the form of a Constitutional Amendment is now in progress, and many Republicans declare that the passage of Issue 1 on August 8th will make it more difficult for the pro-abortion proposal to both get on the ballot in November or to achieve a 60-percent majority.



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Concerned about the anti-democratic nature of Issue 1 and the special vote on August 8th, over two-hundred citizens' groups oppose it and are organizing to insure their members vote no. They include the Ohio League of Women Voters, Common Cause-Ohio and the American Civil Liberties Union. (Check their Web Sites for campaign events and ways people can get involved.) Meanwhile, even though this proposal is a product of Republican State Legislators,

two former Republican Governors, Robert Taft and John Kasich, have publicly spoken out against it.

Nevertheless, opponents of Issue 1 know that nothing can be taken for granted. They realize that Republican proponents are courting a large "yes" vote from Ohioans who are anti-abortion. Supporters are also counting on the likelihood of a very low voter turnout on August 8th as a boost to their cause.

In conclusion, Applied In-

formation urges readers of this newsletter to participate in this special election and to cast a "no" vote on Issue 1. Early in person voting at the Board of Elections in Norwood started on July 11th, and voting absentee is available to those who are registered for this process. Also, please call your friends about the need to vote on August 8th.

OHIOANS REJECT ISSUE 1 AS UNFAIR, UNPOPULAR, AND UNDEMOCRATIC

Since 1912, Ohioans have used citizen-led ballot initiatives to have a direct say in our government. But now, some politicians and big special interests are attempting to re-write the rules to end majority rule. On August 8, join Ohioans across the state to reject the power grab: vote NO on Issue 1! **Vote NO on August 8!**

Unfair

A yes vote in August would make it harder for issues to get onto the ballot by requiring signature collection in all 88 counties, and it would raise the pass rate from 50%+1 to 60%+1 for constitutional amendments. It would end majority rule: 40% of voters would be able to block what the majority wants. Those in power and special interests backing August's Issue 1 think they can slip these changes through in an August Special Election when voter turnout is low. Ohioans reject Issue 1 as unfair, unpopular, undemocratic, and unnecessary! Unfair & Unnecessary -

Ohio citizens now must secure verified signatures in at least half of Ohio's 44 counties to put an initiative on the ballot. This proposed resolution would require verified signatures from all 88 counties. There would be no cure period to make up or correct any further signatures. This issue would make it almost impossible for anyone except big money special interests to successfully pass a ballot initiative in Ohio. Issue 1 rigs the process against everyday Ohioans and takes away our rights.

Unpopular

Ohioans from all sides of the political spectrum are speaking out against this cynical attack on our democracy, including four living former governors (two Republicans, two Democrats), five former attorney generals, editorial boards across the state, and a coalition of organizations (including labor) that represents millions of Ohioans. It's not just Ohioans who don't like the idea of giving up their power to the

state legislature: similar proposals were recently rejected in Arkansas and South Dakota.

Undemocratic

The vote in August is bigger than any one specific ballot proposal. It's about preserving the right of the people of Ohio to bring issues directly to the ballot and make decisions about issues that are important to them. Ohioans only use the citizen initiative if the state legislature is not accountable to the voters—and we know the gerrymandered maps mean our Ohio Representatives and Senators are not accountable and are not listening to our concerns.

Passing Issue 1 means politicians and special interests get what they want, not what the people want. They think they can fool Ohioans into giving away their rights. Keep your power:

Article-courtesy of League of Women Voters of Ohio.

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AIR depends on individual contributions to support our work. We are a charitable 501(c) (3) organization and your contributions help fund the Community Issues Forums

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You can now donate online at www.airinc.org

Community Issues Forums Resume in the Fall



Thursday, September 14, 12 Noon Affordable Housing Ballot Issue

Thursday, September 28, 12 Noon Cincinnati City Council Candidates

Thursday, October 12, 12 Noon Cincinnati City Council Candidates and Zoo levy

Thursday, October 26, 12 Noon Reproductive Rights Ballot Issue

Voting Information



Voting Information

Early In-Person Voting: Begins July 11 and includes the Saturday and Sunday before Election Day.

Early Vote Location:

Hamilton County Board Of Elections
4700 Smith Rd
Norwood, Ohio 45212
513-632-7000

- Absentee Voting By Mail: Begins July 11.
- Deadline for absentee ballot applications to be received by county Boards of Elections: August 1.
- Deadline to postmark your mail ballot: August 7 (AND it must be received by the Board of Elections by August 12).
- Election Day: August 8 (Polls Open 6:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.).
- Deadline for mail ballots to be personally delivered to your County Board of Elections: August 8, 7:30 PM.
- Deadline for boards to receive mail-ballots that have been post-marked on or before August 12.