

ARGUMENT AGAINST ISSUE ONE

UNDER ARTICLE 4 SECTION 6 OF OHIO'S CONSTITUTION A PERSON AGE 70 OR OLDER IS NOT ELIGIBLE FOR ELECTION TO A JUDICIAL OFFICE.

THE AGE LIMIT EMBODIED IN OUR STATE'S CONSTITUTION PREVENTS OUR BENCH FROM BEING HELD FOR DECADES BY AN ENTRENCHED JUDICIARY. OUR JUDGES FACE ELECTION EVERY 6 YEARS. PERIODIC ELECTIONS COUPLED WITH A REASONABLE AGE LIMIT ASSURES THAT OUR JUDICIARY REMAINS EFFICIENT AND PRODUCTIVE. OUR CURRENT SYSTEM HAS SERVED OHIO WELL AND THE QUALITY OF OUR JUDICIARY HAS NEVER BEEN BETTER.

WHEN A JUDGE REACHES 70 THEY COMPLETE THEIR FULL TERM IN OFFICE. A PERSON ELECTED AT AGE 69 CAN SERVE UNTIL AGE 75. A RETIRED JUDGE CAN REMAIN ON THE BENCH BY ASSIGNMENT. THE SUPREME COURT OF OHIO HAS ADOPTED A POLICY THAT ALLOWS RETIRED JUDGES TO SERVE UNTIL AGE 80.

ISSUE ONE PROPOSES TO EXTEND THE JUDICIAL AGE LIMIT TO 75 YEARS. THE ADDITIONAL FIVE YEARS WILL BURDEN OUR COURTS WITH SOME JUDGES WHO'S BEST YEARS ARE BEHIND THEM. IT WILL ALSO MAKE OUR POOL OF RETIRED JUDGES ELIGIBLE TO SIT BY ASSIGNMENT MUCH OLDER. THIS WILL HAVE A NEGATIVE IMPACT ON THE QUALITY AND PERFORMANCE OF OHIO'S JUDICIARY.

ISSUE ONE PLACES TWO OTHER COURT RELATED PROPOSALS BEFORE VOTERS FOR CONSIDERATION. IT REMOVES ANTIQUATED CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS REGARDING THE LEGISLATURE AND THE GOVERNOR'S AUTHORITY OVER RARELY USED COURTS OF CONCILIATION AND SUPREME COURT COMMISSIONS. THESE PROVISIONS SHOULD BE ADDRESSED SEPARATELY AND NOT COMBINED WITH THE UNNECESSARY PROPOSITION EXTENDING AGE LIMITS FOR ELECTED JUDGES.

OUR CURRENT SYSTEM WORKS, ISSUE ONE ATTEMPTS TO FIX SOMETHING THAT IS NOT BROKEN AND IT SHOULD BE REJECTED BY OHIO'S VOTERS.

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