

State Issue 1 – Argument AGAINST

Issue 1 allows the state to issue more general obligation bonds, increasing indebtedness to pay for public infrastructure capital improvements. As a result, all Ohio taxpayers will be paying interest on those bonds to cover local government projects including roads, bridges, waste water treatment systems, water supply systems, solid waste disposal facilities and storm water and sanitary collection, storage and treatment facilities. These are community-based projects from which many Ohioans may not see a direct benefit and which local governments should prioritize and pay for using locally-raised dollars.

The state government has gone back to voters numerous times for permission to issue more general obligation bonds, most recently in 2005. Issue 1 not only represents an increase in the amount of borrowed money and spending on local infrastructure as compared to previous years, but it also comes sooner than voters expected. When Ohioans approved the last round of general obligation bonds in 2005, they expected it to last for a full 10 years.

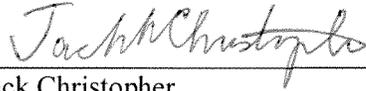
Though the newly issued bonds will pay for projects over the next decade, it may take up to three times that long to pay them back as outlined in the full text of Senate Joint Resolution 6, which placed Issue 1 on the ballot, “Each issue of obligations issued under this section shall mature in not more than thirty years from the date of issuance, or, if issued to retire or refund other obligations, within that number of years from the date the debt being retired or refunded was originally issued.”

Vote NO on Issue 1.

CERTIFICATION

Acting in my capacity as the secretary of the Ohio Ballot Board, I hereby certify to the Secretary of the State of Ohio that the foregoing text is the argument against the proposed constitutional amendment prepared by the Ohio Ballot Board, acting pursuant to Article XVI, Section 1 of the Ohio Constitution and section 3505.063 of the Revised Code of Ohio, for this constitutional amendment proposed by the general assembly for submission to the Ohio electorate at the election to be held on May 6, 2014.

In testimony whereof, I have subscribed my name in Columbus, Ohio, this 19th day of February, 2014.



Jack Christopher
Secretary, Ohio Ballot Board