

ISSUE 1

PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

(Proposed by Initiative Petition)

- 1** To amend Section 6 of Article XV of the Constitution of the State of Ohio.

IN ORDER TO AUTHORIZE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF RIVER BOAT CASINO GAMBLING IN OHIO, THIS AMENDMENT WOULD:

- 1. AUTHORIZE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PERMANENTLY MOORED RIVER BOAT CASINO GAMING FACILITIES TO CONDUCT GAMES AND SCHEMES OF CHANCE WITHOUT WAGERING LIMITS, EXCLUDING BINGO AND DOG OR HORSE RACES, ON RIVERS IN THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS: TWO (2) IN THE CITY OF CINCINNATI, ONE (1) IN HAMILTON COUNTY OUTSIDE OF CINCINNATI, THREE (3) IN THE CITY OF CLEVELAND, ONE (1) IN THE CITY OF LORAIN, AND ONE (1) IN MAHONING COUNTY.**
- 2. RIVER BOAT CASINO GAMING FACILITIES MAY BE ESTABLISHED IN DESIGNATED LOCATIONS ONLY IF THIS AMENDMENT IS APPROVED AT THIS ELECTION BY A MAJORITY OF ELECTORS WHO VOTE ON THE AMENDMENT IN A COUNTY IN WHICH THE FACILITY WOULD BE LOCATED.**
- 3. ESTABLISH A GAMING COMMISSION TO LICENSE AND REGULATE THE OPERATION OF RIVER BOAT CASINO GAMING FACILITIES AND TO LICENSE ALL CASINO OPERATORS AND EMPLOYEES, MANUFACTURERS AND VENDORS OF GAMING DEVICES, AND OTHER PERSONS.**
- 4. LEVY A TWENTY PERCENT (20%) MONTHLY GAMING FEE ON GROSS REVENUES OF GAMES OR SCHEMES OF**

CHANCE CONDUCTED AT RIVER BOAT CASINO GAMING FACILITIES AFTER DEDUCTION OF TOTAL PRIZES PAID TO PATRONS. THE FEE PROCEEDS SHALL BE DISTRIBUTED AS FOLLOWS: EIGHTY PERCENT (80%) TO PRIMARY AND SECONDARY PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES, TEN PERCENT (10%) TO THE MUNICIPALITY OR TOWNSHIP IN WHICH THE FACILITY IS LOCATED, AND TEN PERCENT (10%) TO THE COUNTY IN WHICH THE FACILITY IS LOCATED.

5. PROHIBIT THE LEVY OF ANY ADDITIONAL TAXES OR FEES RELATING SOLELY TO GAMING EXCEPT AN INITIAL APPLICATION FEE TO OPERATE A GAMING FACILITY.

6. PROHIBIT ANY PERSON UNDER THE AGE OF TWENTY ONE (21) FROM PARTICIPATING IN AUTHORIZED GAMING AS A PATRON OR EMPLOYEE.

IF ADOPTED, THIS AMENDMENT WILL BE EFFECTIVE IN THIRTY (30) DAYS.

A majority yes vote is necessary for passage.

	YES	SHALL THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT BE ADOPTED?
	NO	

ARGUMENT FOR STATE ISSUE 1

Issue 1 gives Ohioans in Hamilton, Cuyahoga, Lorain and Mahoning Counties the choice of allowing limited, responsibly-regulated gambling on riverboats on designated rivers in those counties. Only eight riverboats are permitted statewide. A 20-percent fee on gross gaming revenues of the riverboats would yield money for schools, counties and cities. Eighty percent of the fees would go to school districts statewide and the remaining twenty percent would go to the local communities where the riverboats are permanently moored. An independent state commission would regulate and license the riverboats and their employees.

Several Midwestern states near Ohio have proven that well-regulated, limited riverboat gaming is a responsible entertainment alternative that strengthens local economies and provides revenue for community needs.

A "yes" vote on Issue 1 means:

- Money for all Ohio schools - an estimated \$186 million each year for school building repairs, education supplies and computers. No one, not even the politicians, could divert this money without a vote of the people.
- Competing states will no longer be able to siphon off nearly \$1.3 billion in economic benefits from Ohio.
- An estimated 21,175 permanent jobs for Ohioans.
- An estimated 12,462 temporary construction jobs for Ohioans.
- Local choice. A majority of voters in each of the four counties must approve Issue 1 to permit a riverboat in their communities.
- No additional riverboats can be authorized without a vote of the people statewide.

Neighboring Midwestern states have proven that well-regulated, limited riverboat gaming is consistent with Ohio values of safe communities with strong economies and good schools.

For these reasons, local citizens and leaders in law enforcement, education and business support Issue 1.

COMMITTEE TO PREPARE ARGUMENT FOR ISSUE 1

Dorothy J. Anderson
former member, Lorain City Board of Education

Don J. Mooney, Jr.
member, Cincinnati Planning Commission

Joseph A. Mazzarella
retired, Cleveland Police Officer

Mary Lou Reyes-Tinsley
member, Western Reserve Port Authority

ARGUMENT AGAINST STATE ISSUE 1

Join Governor Voinovich, Ohio Newspapers, Business and Community Leaders; Vote No on Issue 1.

Crime Will Skyrocket: Contrary to promoters' claims, casinos increase crime. EVERY Ohio statewide police organization opposes casino gambling.

Schools Are Hurt: Casinos will drain public funds to pay for the crime and compulsive gambling problems they cause, making it harder to fund a sound education for our children. 'Helping schools' is just the propaganda promoters are using to sway voters.

Issue 1 Creates a Special Monopoly for a Few Wealthy Ohioans: Riverboat owners will make millions with legalized casinos. Ohio citizens will lose more than \$1 Billion every year.

Issue 1 Gives Casino Owners Special Tax Breaks: This proposal forbids ANY new tax or fee specifically on casinos in the future.

Casinos Will Expand: This proposal REQUIRES the Legislature to keep casinos competitive. This could create limitless casino gambling around Ohio.

Ohio Jobs Will Disappear: Casinos will drain money from our economy and cause businesses to close. The Ohio Chamber of Commerce, NFIB and Ohio Restaurant Assn. all oppose Issue 1.

Casinos Take Advantage of the Poor: Casinos take money from those who can least afford it.

Families Are Destroyed: Gambling addictions will multiply, especially among teens. Families will be ruined, bankruptcies skyrocket, divorces increase and children ignored or abused.

Your Tax Money Is Wasted: Every \$1 in new revenues from casinos costs Ohioans \$3 to pay for social costs such as new sewer and water infrastructure, increased police and fire protection, fraud, embezzlement, etc.

62% of All Ohioans Rejected Casinos in 1990.

Join Republicans, Democrats and Independents, Church and Business Leaders and Every Ohio Statewide Official, including:

**Governor Voinovich,
Lt. Governor Hollister,
State Auditor Petro,
State Treasurer Blackwell and
Attorney General Montgomery.**

VOTE NO ON ISSUE 1.

COMMITTEE TO PREPARE ARGUMENT AGAINST ISSUE 1

Citizens for a Stronger Ohio Committee

Governor George V. Voinovich, Chair;
Attorney General Betty Montgomery, Co-Chair;
John J. Jazwa, Treasurer.