

Information about Statewide Issues on the Kids Voting Ballots

All information about the Ohio Ballot Issues is excerpted from the Ohio Secretary of State's website. More information can be found there:

<http://www.sos.state.oh.us/SOS/elections/IssueProcBallotBd/BallotBoard.aspx#Issues>

Issue 1: To amend the Ohio Constitution to authorize bonds to provide compensation to veterans of the Persian Gulf, Afghanistan, and Iraq Conflicts

Official Ballot Language:

This proposed amendment would:

1. Authorize the state to issue up to two hundred million dollars (\$200,000,000) of bonds to provide compensation to veterans of the Persian Gulf, Afghanistan, and Iraq conflicts, and to pay for the administration of the Persian Gulf, Afghanistan, and Iraq Conflicts Compensation Bond Retirement Fund and the Persian Gulf, Afghanistan, and Iraq Conflicts Compensation Fund.
2. Authorize the Ohio Department of Veterans Services to provide compensation to persons who have served in active duty in the United States armed forces at any time during the Persian Gulf, Afghanistan, and Iraq conflicts and who were Ohio residents at the start of active duty services and are currently Ohio residents.
3. Allow certain survivors to receive the same compensation as the person who served in the armed forces would have received, if that person dies or is designated as missing in action or held in enemy captivity.
4. Authorize the state to issue bonds only for the time period from the effective date of this amendment until December 31, 2013.

Official Argument in Favor of Issue 1

A "YES" vote for Issue 1 would allow the state to issue \$200 million in bonds to provide cash bonuses for Ohio veterans who served in the Persian Gulf War, as well as the thousands of dedicated Ohioans in our nation's armed forces who have fought and continue to fight to defend our freedoms in Iraq, Afghanistan and other regions of the globe.

Issue 1 should be approved for the following reasons:

Issue 1 extends a much-deserved 'Thank You' to Ohio's servicemen and women. Under Issue 1, Ohioans who fought in the Persian Gulf, Iraq and Afghanistan could receive \$100 per month of service, not to exceed \$1,000, while soldiers who were stationed in other locations during these conflicts could receive \$50 per month of service, not to exceed \$500. These bonuses would not only show our state's veterans that Ohio appreciates their service, but also help them transition from the military back to civilian life once their tours of duty are complete.

Issue 1 helps Ohio's military families. Issue 1 would offer a \$5,000 death benefit to the families of soldiers killed in the line of duty.

Issue 1 continues a longstanding Ohio tradition of supporting our veterans. In 1921, Ohio voters approved a constitutional amendment to give bonuses to

soldiers returning home from World War I. Over the next several decades, Ohioans also passed similar measures to provide bonuses to veterans of World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War. Issue 1 continues this important recognition of our veterans. Passage of Issue 1 sends an important message that Ohio supports its veterans and their families, and we are grateful for everything they do for the country, this state and our local communities.

Official Argument Against Issue 1

Issue 1 would authorize the government to spend more in bond money. Economic conditions are poor. The state of Ohio must tighten its belt and spend only what is necessary and only what we can cover with incoming revenues. Issue 1 authorizes the government to take out more debts to provide for compensation to veterans of recent United States military conflicts – Persian Gulf, Afghanistan and Iraq. While this may be a worthwhile and noble endeavor, the State of Ohio should not be going further into debt. Passing Issue 1 means taxpayers will have to pay back these bonds. Issue 1 authorizes \$200 Million in debt to provide compensation to veterans of recent United States military conflicts. This money would have to be paid back in the future by Ohioans. This money could be retained by taxpayers who have suffered during the economic downturn. This money could be used by taxpayers for their own purposes or used for other plans and directly helping people in need.

Issue 2: To amend the Ohio Constitution to create the Ohio Livestock Care Standards Board to oversee the care of farm animals in Ohio

Official Ballot Language:

This proposed amendment would:

1. Require the state to create the Livestock Care Standards Board to prescribe standards for animal care and well-being that endeavor to maintain food safety, encourage locally grown and raised food, and protect Ohio farms and families.
2. Authorize this bipartisan board of thirteen members to consider factors that include, but are not limited to, agricultural best management practices for such care and well-being, biosecurity, disease prevention, animal morbidity and mortality data, food safety practices, and the protection of local, affordable food supplies for consumers when establishing and implementing standards.
3. Provide that the board shall be comprised of thirteen Ohio residents including representatives of Ohio family farms, farming organizations, food safety experts, veterinarians, consumers, the dean of the agriculture department at an Ohio college or university and a county humane society representative.
4. Authorize the Ohio department that regulates agriculture to administer and enforce the standards established by the board, subject to the authority of the General Assembly.

Official Argument In Favor of Issue 2

Voting Yes on Issue 2 creates the Ohio Livestock Care Standards Board to ensure livestock well-being, maintain our food safety, assure our locally grown and raised food supply and protect Ohio farms and families.

The Board will...

- Maintain and promote food safety
- Promote locally grown and raised food
- Protect Ohio consumers and family farmers
- Ensure the care and well-being of livestock
- Be composed of a broad-based group of Ohio experts

Voting Yes on Issue 2 will keep control of agriculture where it belongs, here in Ohio, under the guidance of Ohio experts including family farmers, food safety experts, veterinarians, and consumers.

Agriculture is the cornerstone of Ohio's economy generating billions of dollars and creating thousands of jobs for Ohioans. Voting YES on Issue 2 is an opportunity for our state to lead the way in regulating safe food production and by promoting locally produced food, voting YES on Issue 2 keeps jobs here in Ohio. Yes on Issue 2 has received broad bi-partisan support from both Republican and Democrat state legislators. Governor Ted Strickland, Senate President Bill Harris (R-Ashland), House Speaker Armond Budish (D-Beachwood), and elected officials and organizations across Ohio all urge a YES Vote on Issue 2.

Official Argument Against Issue 2

You should vote **NO** because:

Issue 2 puts the economic interests of factory farms ahead of the welfare of farm animals.

Issue 2 was passed through the Legislature.

Agribusiness supports this amendment to prevent certain animal care reform proposed by national animal rights organizations.

Issue 2 expands state government unnecessarily, and expands it at a time when Ohioans cannot afford more government.

Making the proposed livestock board a constitutional board would be an inappropriate use of the Ohio Constitution.

Amending the Ohio Constitution should be reserved for significant issues that affect the rights of all Ohioans.

Voters should defeat proposed amendments that add clutter to Ohio's Constitution and that address issues better suited for changes to the Ohio Revised Code or the Ohio Administrative Code.

Issue 3: To amend the Ohio Constitution to allow for one casino each in Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus, and Toledo

Official Ballot Language:

This proposed amendment would:

1. Authorize only one casino facility at a specifically designated location within each of the cities of Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus, and Toledo.
2. Levy a fixed tax of 33% of gross casino revenue received by each casino operator of the four casino facilities.
3. Distribute the casino tax as follows:
 - 51% among all 88 counties in proportion to such counties' respective populations. Half of each county's distribution will go to its largest city if that city's population is above 80,000.
 - 34% among all public school districts
 - 5% among all host cities
 - 3% to the Ohio casino control commission
 - 3% to the Ohio state racing commission fund
 - 2% to a state law enforcement training fund
 - 2% to a state problem gambling and addictions fund
4. Require each initial licensed casino operator to pay a single \$50,000,000 fee to be used for state job training purposes and make a minimum initial investment of \$250,000,000 in its facility.
5. Permit approved types of casino gaming authorized by Michigan, West Virginia, Indiana, and Pennsylvania as of January 1, 2009 or games subsequently authorized by those states.
6. Authorize the casinos to operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week, at the discretion of the casino operator and require that the casino facilities shall be subject to all state and local laws and provisions related to health and building codes, but that no local zoning, land use laws, subdivision regulations or similar provisions shall prohibit the development or operation of the casinos at the designated sites.
7. Create the Ohio casino control commission which will license and regulate casino operators, management companies retained by such casino operators, key employees, gaming-related vendors, and all gaming authorized by this constitutional provision.

Official Argument For Issue 3

Issue 3 will:

- Create first-class casinos in Cleveland, Columbus, Cincinnati and Toledo.
- Create 34,000 new Ohio jobs – jobs that can't be outsourced.
- Produce \$11 billion in economic impact over five years.
- Generate \$651 million a year in tax revenue to be shared by all 88 counties, the eight largest cities, and every Ohio public school district.
- Provide \$200 million for state job training programs that put Ohioans back to work.
- Mandate at least \$1 billion in new private investment to be spent on new casino facilities.

- Spark revitalization in the downtown centers of Ohio's four largest cities.
- Have no impact on the conduct of the state lottery, bingo or charitable gaming.

Keep Money In Ohio: Over \$1 billion leaves Ohio each year when Ohioans travel to neighboring states' facilities. Issue 3 keeps money and tax revenues in Ohio.

Ohioans Have Been Waiting for the Right Proposal: Independent polls show that Ohioans support expanded gaming. Issue 3 is the best gaming proposal ever put before Ohio voters. Issue 3 is the right way to bring casino gaming to Ohio.

Key Endorsements: Working Ohioans understand that Issue 3 will help revive Ohio's ailing economy. That's why Issue 3 is supported by: Ohio AFL-CIO, Ohio State Building Trades Council, Fraternal Order of Police and many local labor organizations.

Casinos Taxes Higher Than Most All Other Businesses: Under Issue 3, casino operators are required to pay a 33 percent tax on all gross casino revenues on top of the other taxes businesses usually pay.

Official argument against Issue 3

Ohio voters said NO to casino gambling four times before. Issue 3 is another attempt to hijack Ohio's Constitution and create a monopoly for out-of-state owners to build casinos only in Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus and Toledo. Nothing in Issue 3 requires casino operators to build anything. No revenues get paid to the state if no one builds in a city.

Casino operators would pay just 33% of their gross profits in taxes, keeping 67% for themselves. Ohio's casinos would pay a lower percentage of their profits than casinos in most other states. Ohio's legislature would have no power to force casinos to pay a higher tax rate.

The entire plan is tilted in favor of wealthy casino operators

- It bans all other casino gaming, including "casino nights" offered by churches, fraternal organizations or other charities.
- It imposes a hidden tax by failing to limit how much taxpayers must spend to upgrade roads, bridges or necessary infrastructure improvements if even one casino is built.
- It pre-empts most local and state laws, including zoning laws.
- It allows casinos to stay open 24-hours a day, seven days a week.
- Because of a loophole written by casino lawyers, casinos pay no taxes on profits from cash wagering.

Border states would dictate to Ohio

Ohio would be forced to offer games approved in the future by Michigan, West Virginia, Indiana or Pennsylvania. This would happen with no say from Ohioans.

Our Constitution would be cluttered unnecessarily

This would list in the Ohio Constitution the parcels of land on which these casinos are to be located. The land is already owned by casino operators and allies. Local citizens would have no say over where casinos would be built.