



THE PLAIN DEALER

Weighing the pros and cons of Ohio ballot issue - letters to the editor

Sunday, October 26, 2008

How can we afford not to approve Issue 127 in support of the Cuyahoga County Public Library? Our public library provides countless services and valuable items that few would be able to purchase regularly - \$20 for a good read from the bookstore or \$20 DVDs at the video store. Additionally, the library offers exceptional free local programs on a wide range of topics, from "death by chocolate" to avoiding computer viruses to the history of the region.

Lastly, without question, the knowledgeable and helpful staff, who provide speedy and expert service whenever we get confused about a resource or have other questions, make the library the friendly and welcoming place we know. On Nov. 4, we can protect these resources by voting for Issue 127.

In politics, it is better to be for some thing rather than against it. Thus, I am for keeping government accountable to the taxpayer. As such, I am for the repeal of all laws allowing tax levy proposals to establish permanent levies (actually, they appear on ballots as levies

Coleridge is director of the Northeast Ohio American Friends Service Committee.

Ohio casino: Issue 6

It is long past time that the govern ment of Ohio developed a gaming commission to sell licenses and regulate gambling in Ohio, rather than allowing the voters to be subjected to biased proposals every election.

One voter recently told me, "I know Issue 6 isn't good, but I'm going to vote for it because it's about time Ohio allowed gambling." Is that how we are forced to make laws in Ohio?

Legislators, earn your pay, pensions, medical benefits, perks and everything else that the citizens of Ohio provide for you by developing a good gaming system before we get stuck with some miserable system that isn't properly regulated, benefits only the promoters and is harmful to the rest of us.

Joseph Dea, Cleveland Heights

Issue 6 makes me sick. I am sick of seeing an Ohio casino issue come along over and over again and never be accepted. I am sick of a state that cannot draft clear legislation to eliminate all of the arguing about whether it will work as intended.

I am sick of the argument that gambling isn't a wholesome endeavor. We all know it isn't, and the ones who don't care are off to neighboring states to spend their money anyway. How did these states get it right?

Martin Helstein, Lyndhurst

The Oct. 11 letter from Esther Greenewald states, "Growing up in Delaware, I watched the death of a family beach town when Atlantic City, N.J., was turned over to casinos."

Well, I grew up in New Jersey, and Atlantic City had been dead for several years before the casinos

arrived. If you went to Atlantic City, it was for drugs, prostitution or some other organized crime offering. The casinos did not bring the city back to its heyday, but they did supply the city, county and state with much-needed revenue.

Vote "yes" on Issue 6 and bring greatly needed revenue to Ohio.

Chris Sutton, Cleveland

Clean Ohio: Issue 2

Republicans and Democrats agree that Clean Ohio protects drinking water, protects natural areas and family farms, redevelops polluted sites and urban areas and creates recreational trails for the betterment of all Ohioans. We all should care about turning on our faucets and knowing that our drinking water is clean. Further, we should all care about an environment that enriches our lives and will be there for our children and grandchildren.

In Cuyahoga County, Clean Ohio has brought \$1.6 million for recreational trails, more than \$14 million for green space and another \$27 million for community revitalization.

Clean Ohio will not raise taxes. Passing Issue 2 will renew a bond issue approved several years ago. Passage of Clean Ohio will allow Ohio to receive matching federal funds for projects to protect and preserve the environment.

Our health and environment are worth it. Please vote "yes" on Issue 2.

Michael W. Dever, Lakewood

Payday lending: Issue 5 Ohioans can permanently end exploitation in this state by voting "yes" on Issue 5.

Here is a little bit of history: In bipartisan votes, the Ohio General Assembly last spring capped payday-loan annual percentage rates (APRs) at 28 percent. Gov. Ted Strickland signed the cap. Payday lenders have taken the question to the ballot, as Issue 5.

A "yes" vote would cement in place Ohio's new 28 percent APR cap on payday loans.

A "no" vote would let payday lenders keep charging Ohioans APRs of up to 391 percent.

To protect themselves, and especially the poor, Ohioans must show that they're not fooled. They should vote "yes" on Issue 5, thus keeping the cap.

Martha Wagner, Aurora

State Issue 5 is a referendum on a bad and intrusive law passed by the Ohio legislature that will, among other things, create a statewide database of consumer loan transactions and state regulation of consumer behaviors based upon that monitoring.

This creepy intrusion into private consumer affairs is weird and Orwellian. Fortunately, the voters can put an end to this one bad law on Nov. 4.

Eight years of Bob Taft, and the mess Washington has made of our economy, should tell us that government bureaucrats making financial decisions for us does not work. Rather, working families addressing their own priorities and financial decisions without government intrusion is the better approach.

A "no" vote on Issue 5 will ensure that these excesses from the Ohio legislature do not become law.

Christopher P. Finney, Cincinnati

©2008

© 2008 cleveland.com All Rights Reserved.