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2015 Ohio Ballot Issues

With election season right around the corner, it is critical that voters begin educating themselves on the 2015 ballot issues. Below are the three issues that will appear on the November 3rd ballot, with brief summaries of each issue.

Issue 1: Creates a bipartisan, public process for drawing legislative updates

Issue 1 is a proposed constitutional amendment brought forth by the General Assembly that seeks to end the partisan process of drawing Ohio House and Senate districts. Currently, Article XI of the Ohio Constitution states that a five person committee shall be charged with the apportionment of General Assembly districts. The present committee selection process favors the General Assembly's majority party, resulting in legislative districts that favor one political party over another. If it passes in November, Issue 1 would replace the current format with a seven person, bipartisan committee consisting of the governor, secretary of state, state auditor, and four members appointed by the majority and minority leaders of the General Assembly. Both the Ohio Republican and Democratic parties support Issue 1, as leadership in both parties believe the proposed amendment will lead to smaller districts and more competitive races. Opponents contend that partisan control of district mapping is fair, as each official has been elected by the people and partisan districts are representative of the people's will.

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Upcoming Events:

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Gala, Columbus -
October 16

The five person committee has been controlled by both major parties throughout its history.

Related Articles:

Columbus Dispatch-- [Redistricting plan awaits Ohio voters](#)

Issue 2: Prohibits proposals that would create market monopolies

Issue 2 is a proposed constitutional amendment brought forth by the General Assembly that would prohibit any individual or entity from proposing a constitutional amendment that would grant a monopoly, oligopoly, cartel, or commercial license for their exclusive financial benefit. Issue 2 would also block proposed constitutional amendments that create a monopoly, oligopoly, or cartel for the sale or distribution of any federal, Schedule 1 drug. Those supporting Issue 2 argue that without such an amendment, special interest groups can purchase a constitutional amendment that would permanently grant them special government treatment. Opponents of Issue 2 claim that individuals or entities should not be prevented from amending the constitution, regardless of their ultimate objective, if a majority of voters support the amendment.

Related Article:

Cincinnati Enquirer -- [What's the deal with Issue 2?](#)

Issue 3: Grants a monopoly for the production and sale of marijuana for recreational and medicinal purposes

Issue 3, a citizen initiated amendment, seeks to legalize the commercial production and sale of marijuana for recreational and medicinal uses. Cannabis harvested at the permitted growing sites could then be sold to citizens 21 and older, at any of the nearly 1,100 proposed, state-sanctioned dispensaries. Tax revenues,

DACA Clinic, Springfield
- October 15 & 17

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which would be generated from a 15 percent wholesale tax and a 5 percent sales tax, would be utilized to support public safety and health services around the state. Additional tax revenues would fund the Marijuana Control Commission, a marijuana business incubator, non-profit medical marijuana dispensaries, mental health and addiction prevention and treatment programs, and a program to provide low-cost medical marijuana for patients who cannot afford the full cost. Due to the conflicting language of Issues 2 and 3, if both issues pass in November the Ohio Supreme Court will likely be called on to determine which issue becomes law.

Related Articles:

Health Policy Institute of Ohio -- [Ohio Issue 3: Marijuana legalization resource page](#)

Cleveland Plain Dealer -- [What happens if both marijuana legalization and anti-monopoly amendments pass?](#)

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