Issue One

EXPLANATION

Proposed Constitutional Amendment

TO FUND PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS BY PERMITTING THE ISSUANCE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS

Proposed by Joint Resolution of the General Assembly
To enact Section 2s of Article VIII of the Constitution of the State of Ohio

The purpose of this amendment is to ensure the public health, safety, and welfare, create and preserve jobs, enhance employment opportunities, and improve the economic welfare of the people of Ohio by improving public infrastructure.

The amendment authorizes the State of Ohio to issue general obligation bonds to pay for or help local governments pay for public infrastructure capital improvements. Projects would be limited to roads and bridges, waste water treatment systems, water supply systems, solid waste disposal facilities, and storm water and sanitary collection, storage, and treatment facilities, including real property or interests in real property, facilities and equipment related or incidental thereto, and the cost of acquisition, construction, reconstruction, expansion, improvement, planning and equipping.

The Ohio Constitution currently contains a provision authorizing the State of Ohio to issue bonds to finance public infrastructure capital improvements for local governments through the State Capital Improvements Program. This proposed constitutional amendment would reauthorize the issuance of those bonds.

The proposed amendment limits bond issuance to $1.875 billion over a ten-year period, with no more than $175 million in each of the first five fiscal years and no more than $200 million in each of the next five fiscal years. Any principal amount that could have been issued in a prior fiscal year, but was not issued, may subsequently be issued. No general obligations for public infrastructure capital improvements may be issued under this amendment until the existing authority to issue state infrastructure bonds under Article VIII, Section 2p of the Ohio Constitution has been exhausted. These general obligations must mature no later than thirty (30) years after their date of issuance, and any refunding obligations must mature no later than the permitted maturity date for the obligations being refunded.

This amendment also authorizes the General Assembly to pass laws providing for its implementation. The laws must establish a procedure for incurring and issuing obligations and provide for the use of Ohio products, materials, services, and labor to the extent possible in any project financed, in whole or in part, under the section.

If approved, the amendment would take effect immediately.

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 ballot language prescribed by the Ohio Ballot Board, acting pursuant to Article XVI, Section 1 of the Ohio Constitution and section 3505.062 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