



VOTERS GUIDE

to the

Tuesday

May 4, 2010

ELECTION

Polls open

6:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.

The League of Women Voters
of the Cincinnati Area
103 Wm. H. Taft Rd.
Cincinnati, OH 45219
(513) 281-8683
Fax (513) 281-8714
www.lwvcincinnati.org

The Primary Election is an election where political parties nominate their candidates for the general election. Ohio has two recognized *major* political parties – the Democratic Party and the Republican Party and four recognized *minor* political parties for the May 4th Primary – the Constitution Party, Green Party, Libertarian Party, and Socialist Party. When you go to your polling place you will be asked to select a party ballot — you can select from the six choices — or you may ask for an “Issues Only” ballot. (This is also true if you vote by mail or In-Office at the Board of Elections.) Your party affiliation will be based on the ballot you select on May 4th and will be listed in the voter files for the next two calendar years.

The Voter Registration/change of address deadline is Monday, April 5th. You can register or change your name/address, at the Hamilton County Board of Elections or at one of the following agencies: branches of the Hamilton County Public Library, Bureau of Motor Vehicles, County Treasurer’s office, public schools and government social service agencies. For questions about Voter Registration call 632-7047 or email: registrationdepartment@hamilton-co.org.

Early In-Office voting at the Hamilton County Board of Elections and mail-in (absentee) voting begins on Tuesday, March 30th. Early In-Office voting ends on Monday, May 3rd at 4:00 p.m.

ABSENTEE VOTING: Any qualified Ohio voter may request an absentee ballot without stating a reason. You must submit your *written* request to the board of elections of the county in which your voting residence is located. Your request must contain certain information (listed below) and your signature.

HOW TO APPLY FOR AN ABSENTEE BALLOT IN HAMILTON COUNTY: An absentee ballot request form is available online at: www.votehamiltoncounty.org OR send a written request for an absentee ballot to: Hamilton County Board of Elections, 824 Broadway, Cincinnati, OH 45202 OR fax a written request to: 513-744-9038.

A written request must include:

- Your name
- Address at which you are registered to vote (Include the mailing address to which ballot is to be sent if different from the residential address.)
- Date of birth
- A statement identifying the election for which you are requesting an absentee ballot: General, Primary or Special Election. If your request is for a partisan primary election ballot, include your party affiliation, otherwise you will receive an issues only ballot.
- A statement that you are a qualified elector
- Signature
- and ONE of the following — Your Ohio driver’s license number; or the last four digits of your Social Security number; or a *copy* of a current and valid photo ID or military identification; or a current utility bill; bank statement; government check; paycheck or other government document that has your name and current address listed.

Remember, if you want to vote by mail you need to request a ballot early so you have time to mail it back to the Board of Elections by May 3rd or deliver it to the Board of Elections office by 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 4th.

DEADLINE FOR APPLYING FOR AN ABSENTEE BALLOT: Your *request* for an absentee ballot must be *received* at the board by 12 noon Saturday, May 1 for the May 4 Election.

— Voted absentee ballots must be *received* at the Board of Elections, 824 Broadway by 7:30 p.m. on election day in order to be counted. Exception: Ballots mailed from out of the country will be counted if received by the board up to 10 days after election day, if post-marked by election day.

— If you request an Absentee Ballot but do not send it in, you may vote a provisional ballot at the polls on election day.

VOTER ID: Ohio voters are required to provide proof of identity before voting. The form of identification that you may use includes:

- your current and valid photo identification card; for example, a valid driver’s license, or
- military identification that shows the voter’s name and current address, or
- a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, paycheck, government check, or other government document showing your name and current address. (Note: You cannot use as proof of identification the notice of your polling location the board of elections mailed to you.)

If you do not have, or fail or refuse to provide the required proof of identity, you may cast a provisional ballot.

Sources: **Hamilton County Board of Elections and Ohio Secretary of State website.**

CANDIDATES FOR MAY 4, 2010 PRIMARY ELECTION

For additional information about the candidates visit: League of Women Voters of the Cincinnati Area web page: www.lwvcincinnati.org, enter your street address and ZIP code in the Smart Voter box on the home page and click the "Get it" button or go to the Smart Voter web page: www.smartvoter.org

GOVERNOR - LT. GOVERNOR

TERM: 4 years. RESPONSIBILITIES: To see that all state laws are faithfully executed; to communicate the condition of the state to the legislature at each session and recommend measures to it; to issue all grants and commissions. The Supreme Executive power is vested in the Office of Governor.

DEMOCRAT	REPUBLICAN
Ted Strickland/Yvette McGee Brown	John Kasich/Mary Taylor
GREEN PARTY - Dennis S. Spisak/ Anita Rios	
LIBERTARIAN PARTY - Ken Matesz/ Ann Leech	

ATTORNEY GENERAL

TERM: 4 years. RESPONSIBILITIES: To provide legal counsel to all elected and appointed officers, departments, boards and commissions of the state; to represent the state in civil and criminal cases directly or indirectly involving the state. The Attorney General is the Chief Legal Officer of the State.

DEMOCRAT	REPUBLICAN
Richard Cordray	Mike DeWine
LIBERTARIAN PARTY - Marc Allan Feldman	

AUDITOR OF STATE

TERM: 4 years. RESPONSIBILITIES: To maintain accurate records of all money paid out of or received by the State Treasury; to issue warrants authorizing the Treasurer to pay claims. The Auditor is the Chief Accounting Officer of the State.

DEMOCRAT	REPUBLICAN
David Pepper	Seth Morgan
	David A. Yost
LIBERTARIAN PARTY - L. Michael Howard	

SECRETARY OF STATE

TERM: 4 years. RESPONSIBILITIES: To appoint county boards of elections and supervise their activities; to prescribe ballot forms; to prepare instructions for the conduct of elections and the training of poll workers. The Secretary of State is the Chief Elections Officer of the State.

DEMOCRAT	REPUBLICAN
Maryellen O'Shaughnessy	Jon Husted
	Sandra O'Brien
LIBERTARIAN PARTY - Charles R. Earl	

TREASURER OF STATE

TERM: 4 years. RESPONSIBILITIES: To collect money due the State and pay warrants issued by the Auditor for expenses against the State. The record of the Auditor and Treasurer must be in balance with each other.

DEMOCRAT	REPUBLICAN
Kevin L. Boyce	Josh Mandel
LIBERTARIAN PARTY - Matthew P. Cantrell	

UNITED STATES SENATOR

TERM: 6 years. SALARY: \$174,000.

RESPONSIBILITIES: To represent the people of Ohio and the United States in dealing with matters of national and international importance. The general welfare should be a prime concern.

DEMOCRAT

Jennifer Brunner
Lee Fisher

REPUBLICAN

Rob Portman

CONSTITUTION PARTY - Eric W. Deaton

SOCIALIST PARTY - Daniel H. LaBotz

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE TO CONGRESS

TERM: 2 years. SALARY: \$174,000.

RESPONSIBILITIES: To represent the people of Ohio, their district and the United States in dealing with matters of national and international importance. The general welfare should be a prime concern.

1st CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Democrat - Steve Driehaus

Democrat - Eric Wilson

Green Party - Rich Stevenson

Republican - Steve Chabot

Libertarian Party - Jim Berns

Libertarian Party - Jared Croxton

2nd CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Democrat - David H. Krikorian

Democrat - Jim Parker

Democrat - Surya Yalamanchili

Republican - Debbi Alsfelder

Republican - C. Michael Kilburn

Republican - Tim Martz

Republican - Jean Schmidt

Libertarian Party - Marc Johnston

CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE OHIO SUPREME COURT Term Commencing January 1, 2011

TERM: 6 years. SALARY: \$150,850.

RESPONSIBILITIES: To hear all cases involving questions arising under the Ohio Constitution or statutes; to hear appeals from Courts of Appeals decisions. The Supreme Court's decisions are final except in cases involving the U.S. Constitution, statutes, or treaties.

DEMOCRAT

Eric Brown

REPUBLICAN

Maureen O'Connor

JUSTICE OF THE OHIO SUPREME COURT Term Commencing January 1, 2011

TERM: 6 years. SALARY: \$141,600.

RESPONSIBILITIES: See above.

DEMOCRAT

Mary Jane Trapp

REPUBLICAN

Judith Ann Lanzinger

JUSTICE OF THE OHIO SUPREME COURT Term Commencing January 2, 2011

TERM: 6 years. SALARY: \$141,600.

RESPONSIBILITIES: See above.

DEMOCRAT

No candidate filed

REPUBLICAN

Paul E. Pfeiffer

JUDGE, OHIO COURT OF APPEALS - 1st DISTRICT Term Commencing February 9, 2011

TERM: 6 years. SALARY: \$132,000.

RESPONSIBILITIES: The Court of Appeals is primarily a court of judicial review. It hears appeals from the Common Pleas, County, and Municipal Courts. Decisions are final except in cases involving Constitutional questions, felony cases, cases in which it has original jurisdiction, and cases of public or great general interest.

DEMOCRAT
Martha Good

REPUBLICAN
Sylvia Sieve Hendon

JUDGE, OHIO COURT OF APPEALS - 1st DISTRICT Unexpired Term Ending February 8, 2013

TERM: 2 years. SALARY: \$132,000.

RESPONSIBILITIES: See above.

DEMOCRAT
William L. Mallory, Jr.

REPUBLICAN
Pat Fisher

JUDGE, COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

TERM: 6 years. SALARY: \$121,350.

RESPONSIBILITIES: Preside at trials of civil cases involving claims of any amount and criminal cases involving felonies committed in Hamilton County; supervise the Jury Commission, Grand Jury, and other departments of the court.

COMMENCING TERM JANUARY 2, 2011

Democrat - Jody Marie Luebbers

Republican - No candidate filed

COMMENCING TERM JANUARY 3, 2011

Democrat - No candidate filed

Republican - Robert P. Ruhlman

COMMENCING TERM JANUARY 4, 2011

Democrat - No candidate filed

Republican - John Andrew West

COMMENCING TERM JANUARY 15, 2011

Democrat - No candidate filed

Ralph E. Winkler - Republican

UNEXPIRED TERM ENDING MARCH 31, 2013

Democrat - Nadine Allen

Republican - Megan E. Shanahan

JUDGE, COURT OF COMMON PLEAS - JUVENILE DIVISION

COMMENCING TERM JANUARY 1, 2011

TERM: 6 years. SALARY: \$121,350.

RESPONSIBILITIES: Has original jurisdiction over those under 18 years of age. The Juvenile Court has authority in cases of delinquency, unruliness, juvenile traffic offenses, abuse, neglect and dependency.

Democrat - Daniel J. Donnellon
Democrat - Tracie Hunter

Republican - John Williams

JUDGE, COURT OF COMMON PLEAS - DOMESTIC RELATIONS DIVISION

COMMENCING TERM JANUARY 5, 2011

TERM: 6 years. SALARY: \$121,350.

RESPONSIBILITIES: Deals with family issues: divorce, dissolution of marriage, annulment, separation, enforcing spousal support and child custody matters.

Democrat - Stephen L. Black

Republican - Jon H. Sieve

JUDGE, COURT OF COMMON PLEAS - DOMESTIC RELATIONS DIVISION

COMMENCING TERM JANUARY 16, 2011

TERM: 6 years. SALARY: \$121,350.

RESPONSIBILITIES: See above.

Democrat - No candidate filed

Republican - Susan Laker Tolbert

COUNTY COMMISSIONER - COMMENCING TERM JANUARY 1, 2011

TERM: 4 years. SALARY: \$87,075.

RESPONSIBILITIES: To exercise financial control of County expenditures; to authorize public works; to purchase land and buildings; to let contracts; to plan and administer welfare; appoints members of various boards and commissions, employs the county administrator and department directors.

Democrat - Hubert E. Brown
Democrat - Jim Tarbell
Democrat - Cecil Thomas

Republican - Leslie Ghiz
Republican - Chris Monzel

COUNTY AUDITOR

TERM: 4 years. SALARY: \$91,248 base plus \$3,000 extra for handling Estate taxes.

RESPONSIBILITIES: Serves as chief fiscal officer for the county; conducts regular real property appraisals; issues warrants to county treasurer for county expenses.

Democrat - Dusty Rhodes

Republican - Tom Brinkman, Jr.

STATE SENATOR

TERM: 4 years. SALARY: \$60,584.

RESPONSIBILITIES: To represent the people of the district and state of Ohio in dealing with matters not allocated to the federal government.

7th DISTRICT

Democrat - Sam Pettinichi

Republican - Shannon Jones
Republican - Michelle G. Schneider

9th DISTRICT

Democrat - Eric H. Kearney

Republican - Deborah M. McKinney

Libertarian - Jessica L. Mears

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

TERM: 2 years. SALARY: \$60,584.

RESPONSIBILITIES: To represent the people of the district and State of Ohio in dealing with matters not allocated to the federal government.

28th DISTRICT

Democrat - Connie Pillich
Libertarian Party - Bryant Callaghan
Republican - Jeffrey Paul
Republican - Tom Weidman
Republican - Mike Wilson
Republican - Vicky Zwissler

32nd DISTRICT

Democrat - Dale Mallory
Libertarian Party - Ryan Printy
Republican - Theo Barnes
Republican - Erik Nebergall

29th DISTRICT

Democrat - Liz Ping
Republican - Louis W. Blessing, Jr.

33rd DISTRICT

Democrat - Alicia Reece
Libertarian Party - Jillian Mack
Republican - Jim Stith

30th DISTRICT

Democrat - Richard G. Luken
Republican - Bob Mecklenborg

34th DISTRICT

Democrat - Max Kinman
Republican - Peter Stautberg

31st DISTRICT

Democrat - Denise Driehaus
Republican - Mike Robison

35th DISTRICT

Democrat - Marcia Garrison
Republican - Ginger Sadler Kubal
Republican - Ron Maag

POLITICAL PARTY OFFICES

TERM: 4 yrs. SALARY: None.

RESPONSIBILITIES: To coordinate party affairs throughout the state; to arrange for the state convention; to formulate party platform; to determine what candidates shall have party support. The State Central Committee sees to the general welfare and administration of the party and raises its funds. Major political parties are required to have a State Central Committee made up of one man and one woman from each state senatorial district in the state, elected at the primary in even-number years.

STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE, 1st CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT - LIBERTARIAN PARTY ONLY

Bryant Callaghan

STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE, 2nd CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT - LIBERTARIAN PARTY ONLY

M. Ann Leech

STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE, 4th STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION - GREEN PARTY ONLY

Joshua J. Krekeler
Gwen Marshall
Eric Miller

STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE, 7th DISTRICT - MAN

Democrat - Peter L. Cassady	Republican - Thomas R. Chandler
Democrat - Keir Holeman	Republican - Michael O. Eshleman
	Republican - Bill Koch
	Republican - Bob McEwen

STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE, 7th DISTRICT - WOMAN

Democrat - Jennifer O'Donnell	Republican - Mary Anne Christie
	Republican - Lori Ann Viars

STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE, 8th DISTRICT - MAN

Democrat - Joe Mallory	Republican - David L. Miller
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STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE, 8th DISTRICT - WOMAN

Democrat - Veronica Ann Kistner	Republican - Christa M. Criddle
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STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE, 9th DISTRICT - MAN

Democrat - Mark Mallory	Republican - Alex M. Triantafilou
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STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE, 9th DISTRICT - WOMAN

Democrat - Bernadette Wilson	Republican - Joanne S. Kemmerer
	Republican - Amber Burke Sprengard

COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE, GREEN PARTY

Joshua J. Krekeler (Write In)
Gwen Marshall
Dorsey R. Stebbins
Richard L. Stevenson
Eric A. Wise
Kimberly S. Wise
Sydney M. Wise

ISSUES FILED FOR THE MAY 4, 2010 PRIMARY ELECTION

STATE ISSUE 1 - PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

TO EXTEND THE OHIO THIRD FRONTIER PROGRAM BY AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF ADDITIONAL GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS TO PROMOTE ECONOMIC GROWTH

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

A "YES" vote means approval of the amendment.

A "NO" vote means disapproval of the amendment.

A majority YES vote is required for the amendment to be adopted.

If approved, the proposed amendment will take effect immediately after the election.

LWVOhio Explanation of Issue 1: At the November 8, 2005, General Election, Ohio voters approved an amendment to the Ohio Constitution to, among other things, authorize \$500 million of general obligation bonds to fund research and development. This bond program became part of the Ohio Third Frontier economic development program to create and preserve jobs. The program has focused on developing five key technology clusters: Advanced Energy; Advanced Materials; Biomedical; Instruments, Controls & Electronics; and Power & Propulsion. This amendment would continue funding for the Ohio Third Frontier program.

This amendment would:

Authorize the state to issue \$700 million of general obligation bonds to renew and continue programs for research and development beginning in fiscal year 2012.

Limit the amount of all state general obligations that may be issued for and the amounts of proceeds from those state general obligations that may be committed to fund research and development to no more than \$225 million in fiscal year 2012 and no more than \$175 million in any fiscal year thereafter.

Require state agencies awarding funding from those state general obligations to obtain independent reviews of and recommendations as to the merits of proposed research and development projects. The Governor, the President and Minority Leader of the Senate, and the Speaker and Minority Leader of the House of Representatives must be provided information regarding the independent reviewer prior to any award. The state agency proposing the award must also notify those officials if the recommendations of an independent reviewer are not adopted by that state agency for the proposed project and the reasons for not adopting those recommendations.

Proponents of the proposed amendment argue that:

- Issue 1 promotes economic growth and job development by supporting Ohio entrepreneurs and supporting research and development projects that boost the competitiveness of Ohio businesses of all sizes.
- Renewal of the Third Frontier Program means continued investment in technology and innovation that has already created 48,000 new jobs and hundreds of new and expanded companies.
- State agencies awarding funds are required to obtain independent reviews of and recommendations as to the merits of proposed research and development projects.
- Independent evaluations of the Third Frontier Program confirm that it has proven itself.

Opponents of the proposed amendment argue that:

- The State of Ohio has a debt limitation in its Constitution to prevent our state government from incurring too much debt and the bonds that would be issued under Issue 1 are not subject to this Constitutional limitation.
- The additional Third Frontier Program debt will need to be repaid from future state budgets. In repaying the bonds, legislators lose flexibility in allocating funds for other state services that may be more urgent.
- The Third Frontier Program allows the State of Ohio to pick winners and losers from the private sector to receive state dollars. While many worthwhile programs may receive funding from this issue, private investments and not public dollars are better situated for such efforts.

STATE ISSUE 2 - PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

TO CHANGE THE LOCATION OF THE COLUMBUS CASINO FACILITY AUTHORIZED BY PREVIOUS STATEWIDE VOTE

Proposed by Joint Resolution of the General Assembly
To amend Section 6 of Article XV of the Constitution of the State of Ohio

A "YES" vote means approval of the amendment.

A "NO" vote means disapproval of the amendment.

A majority YES vote is required for the amendment to be adopted.

If approved, the proposed amendment will take effect immediately after the election.

LWVOhio Explanation of Issue 2: In November of 2009 the voters authorized four casinos to be located in specific locations in Cleveland, Toledo, Columbus, and Cincinnati. This amendment authorizes changing the location for the Columbus casino from the downtown Arena District to an abandoned General Motors manufacturing plant on Columbus' West Side.

Proponents of the proposed amendment argue that:

- Only the location of the casino in Columbus is affected. There is no effect on the casinos approved in Cleveland, Toledo and Cincinnati.
- Authorizing a change in the location of the Columbus casino will ensure faster development of the casino because fewer infrastructure improvements are needed.
- The location of the casino would be moved to a community that is in need of economic development and that has demonstrated support for the casino.

Opponents of the proposed amendment argue that:

- If the amendment approved in November of 2009 is amended, any change should include an increase in the tax revenue the casinos should generate.

SCHOOL ISSUES

- Issue 3. MARIEMONT CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT - Bond Issue 5.28 mills, 37yr, New construction and improvements & Tax Levy 5.15 mills, Continuing period of time - Current operating expenses
- Issue 4. NORTH COLLEGE HILL CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT - Tax Levy - Addition 4.96 mills, 5yr - Emergency Requirements
- Issue 5. NORWOOD CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT - Tax Levy - Substitute - 9.48 mills, Continuing period of time - Necessary Requirements
- Issue 6. PRINCETON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT - Bond Issue 3.52 mills, 37yr, Construction, improvements, renovations and additions & Tax Levy 1.49 mills, Continuing period of time - Improvements
- Issue 7. FINNEYTOWN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT - Tax Levy - Addition 7.95 mills, Continuing period of time - Current expenses
- Issue 8. NORTHWEST LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT - Tax Levy - Renewal 3.88 mills 5yr - Emergency Requirements
- Issue 9. THREE RIVERS LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT - Bond Issue - 4.47 mills, 37yr & Tax Levy - & 0.5 mill 23yr - Construction & Maintenance

CITY ISSUES

- Issue 10. CITY OF CHEVIOT - Proposed Electric Aggregation
- Issue 11. CITY OF CHEVIOT - Tax Levy - Renewal 4.25 mills, 5yr - General Operations
- Issue 12. CITY OF CHEVIOT - Tax Levy - Renewal 0.75 mills, 5yr - General Operations

VILLAGE/TOWNSHIP ISSUES

- Issue 13. VILLAGE OF ELMWOOD PLACE - Tax Levy - Renewal 10 mills, 5yr - Current Expenses
- Issue 14. VILLAGE OF EVENDALE - Proposed Natural Gas Aggregation
- Issue 15. VILLAGE OF EVENDALE - Proposed Electric Aggregation
- Issue 16. VILLAGE OF EVENDALE - Precinct B - Local Option - Sunday Sales at Walmart - Wine and Mixed Beverages, 10 am to midnight
- Issue 17. VILLAGE OF WOODLAWN - Proposed Municipal Income Tax - Increase 0.1%
- Issue 18. GREEN TWP - Precinct K - Local Option - Sunday Sales at Walmart - Wine and Mixed Beverages, 10 am to midnight
- Issue 19. SPRINGFIELD TWP - Precinct C - Local Option - Sunday Sales at Brentwood Spirits - Wine and Mixed Beverages, 11 am to midnight
- Issue 20. SYMMES TWP - Precinct J - Local Option - Sunday Sales at Sam's Club - Wine and Mixed Beverages, 10 am to midnight
- Issue 21. WHITEWATER TWP - Tax Levy - Addition 3.5 mills, Continuing period of time - Fire & EMS

DEFINITIONS OF BALLOT AND ELECTION TERMINOLOGY

MILL

The property tax is measured in mills; a mill is one tenth of a penny. A mill produces \$1 in tax revenue for every \$1,000 of taxable value of the property. The taxable value is 35% of the fair market value, which is determined by the County Auditor's Office.

By state law, counties must revalue all real property every three years. The last reappraisal was done in 2008. The next reappraisal will be completed in 2011, payable in 2012.

RENEWAL LEVY

A renewal levy is the CONTINUANCE OF AN EXISTING LEVY with the collection rate at the same dollar amount as when the levy was originally approved.

(Reference: office of the Ohio Secretary of State)

REPLACEMENT LEVY

A replacement levy is a NEW LEVY FOR THE SAME PURPOSE AS THE EXISTING LEVY but with a different collection rate than the levy it replaces. The collection rate uses the assessed value of the property at the time of the replacement.

(Reference: Office of the Secretary of State)

EMERGENCY TAX LEVY

An emergency tax levy allows a SCHOOL system to receive a specific dollar amount that will not change with property evaluations during the term of the levy. Once a school levy has been designated an Emergency Tax Levy, it must retain that earmark.

(Reference: Hamilton County Board of Elections)

BOND ISSUE

A bond issue is when a state government, or a local unit of government (city, county, school district) places a question before the voters, asking them to approve or deny additional proposed spending. Bond issues are customarily used to borrow money in order to finance major capital projects and repay it over an extended period of time. School districts and municipalities often make use of the bond election authority to pay for school construction or community facilities.

State legislatures or local units of government may also place such a question before the voters in their political jurisdiction because of laws that prevent the unit of government from raising taxes or spending beyond a certain level without the approval of voters.

(Reference: Ballotpedia www.ballotpedia.org)

REFERENDUM

A referendum is the right the Ohio Constitution reserves for Ohioans to vote to ADOPT OR REJECT LAWS PASSED BY THE LEGISLATURE.

Procedure - A referendum on a law already passed by the legislature may be requested by petition within 90 days after the law has been filed with the secretary of state. It may not be requested on an emergency law, tax levy or appropriations for current expenses. Signatures of six percent of the electors voting in the last gubernatorial election are required on the petition and must be obtained in at least 44 of the 88 counties. The law is submitted to the voters at the next general election 60 days after the petition if filed and cannot become effective unless approved by a majority of the voters.

(Reference: LWVO Education Fund. *Know Your Ohio Government, 9th Edition*. pg. 142. 2004)

ZONING REFERENDUM

A Zoning Referendum is only used by citizens of a township to override their trustees' vote. Signatures by petition, equal to 8% of the vote cast in the last gubernatorial election, must be collected for a zoning referendum to be placed on the ballot.

INITIATIVE

An initiative is the right the Ohio Constitution reserves for Ohioans to PROPOSE LEGISLATION OR AMENDMENTS TO THE STATE CONSTITUTION.

1. **Constitutional Amendments** may be initiated directly by the people, bypassing the legislature.

Procedure - A summary of the proposed amendment must be certified by the attorney general. The full text of the amendment and the summary are then filed with the secretary of state. The citizens who initiated the amendment must circulate petitions to collect enough signatures to equal ten percent of the electors voting for governor in the last gubernatorial election. Signatures must come from at least half of Ohio's 88 counties and represent five percent of the total vote cast for governor in that county in the last gubernatorial election. Signatures must be received by the secretary of state no later than 90 days prior to the general election, so that the secretary of state, with the assistance of the local boards of elections, can verify the validity of the signatures. The ballot wording, prepared by the Ohio Ballot Board, along with arguments for the amendment prepared by the initiating committee and arguments against it by persons named by the legislature, is published once a week for three weeks in a newspaper or general circulation in each county. If a majority of the voters approve the amendment it becomes part of the constitution.

2. **Laws** are initiated indirectly by the people since the petition must be submitted to the legislature first.

Procedure - Signatures of three percent of the electors voting in the last gubernatorial election are required to introduce the proposed law in the legislature. If the legislature does not pass the law in four months, or if an amended version is passed, the petitioners have 90 days to collect signatures of an additional three percent of the electors and place it on the ballot. Signatures must be obtained from half of the 88 counties. The law is voted on at the next general election 90 days after the petition is filed and becomes effective if approved by the voters. It is not subject to the governor's veto.

(Reference: LWVO Education Fund. *Know Your Ohio Government, 9th Edition*. pg. 142. 2004)

ELECTRIC/GAS AGGREGATION

Aggregation is the process in which energy is sold to consumers who have joined together as a group to buy a product, electric or natural gas. Local governments may aggregate the energy used by their residents and arrange for the purchase of electricity or natural gas as "governmental aggregators." Ohio law gives local governments the option to choose either an opt-in or opt-out form of aggregation. The "Opt-in" form requires that each consumer agrees to participate in the program before being included in the aggregation pool. It does not require voter approval at an election. The "Opt-out" form automatically includes each consumer in the aggregated pool unless the individual affirmatively decides not to participate. It requires approval by a majority of the voters at an election.

Gas aggregation issues typically read: "Shall the (name of local government) have the authority to aggregate the retail natural gas loads located in the (name of local government), and enter into service agreements to facilitate for those loads the sale and purchase of natural gas, such aggregation to occur automatically except where any person elects to opt out?"

HAMILTON COUNTY TAX LEVY REVIEW COMMITTEE

The County appointed, 9 member, Tax Levy Review Committee (TLRC) serves in an advisory capacity to the Hamilton County Commissioners. Prior to the placement of each levy on the ballot, the TLRC hears agency requests for funding, engages a consultant to review agency financial and spending practices and considers the mid-term review of agency budget targets and contractual requirements. After studying all the information gathered, the Committee works to balance the public need for services with the ability of Hamilton County citizens to bear the tax burden to fund these services. At the completion of their review, the TLRC sends a written report of findings and recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners. The Commissioners make the final decision regarding the levy that is placed before the voters.

BALLOT ABBREVIATIONS

ADD=Addition

COE=Current operating expenses

CPT=Continuing period of time

REN=Renewal