



The Ohio Constitution Protection Amendment

Senate Joint Resolution 2 is simple—its only provision is that in order for an amendment to become part of the Ohio Constitution, it must receive at least 60% of the vote of electors.

Differences between HJR 1 (House version) and SJR 2 (Senate version)

- In HJR 1, if the signatures submitted for a constitutional amendment are insufficient, there is no cure period for petitioners to obtain more signatures.
- In HJR 1, signatures for a constitutional amendment must be obtained from all 88 counties and they must receive signatures from at least 5% of the electors of each county.

Both these provisions have been left out of SJR 2.

Talking Points

1. **Our constitution is up for sale.** With only a simple majority (50% plus one) of votes required to amend it, out-of-state special interest groups can easily secure amendments that would supersede the law established by the people of Ohio through their elected representatives.
2. **Ohio is lagging behind other states which are protecting their constitutions.** Of the 18 states that allow their constitutions to be amended by initiative petition, only 9 require a simple majority of votes.
3. On the federal level, Americans understand the importance of having a constitution that is difficult to change. Amending the U.S. Constitution requires a supermajority—two-thirds of the vote in both chambers and three-fourths of the state legislatures—because our Founders understood that our foundational charter which enumerates our rights needed to be protected from the passions of a simple majority. **The U.S. Constitution has a little over 7,000 words. The Ohio Constitution has a little over 67,000.**



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4. Some recent constitutional amendment efforts in Ohio:

Year	Title	Summary	Status
2009	The Ohio Casino Approval and Tax Distribution Amendment	Authorized the construction of casinos in Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus, and Toledo, including individual parcel numbers for specific casinos	Approved with 52.9% of the vote
2015	Ohio Issue 3, Marijuana Legalization Initiative	Commercialized marijuana and limited growing rights to ten pre-selected landowners	Defeated with only 36.4% of the vote
2018	Ohio Issue 1, Drug and Criminal Justice Policies Initiative	Effectively decriminalizes drug use and reduces prison sentences for violent offenders	Defeated with only 37% of the vote

5. In the recent corruption trial of former Ohio House speaker Larry Householder, major corporate interests such as FirstEnergy and AEP were funding campaign contributions to a dark money group which would fund an initiative petition to double the amount of time that Householder could serve as speaker. This effort was thwarted only by Householder's indictment.
6. Since 2008, 14 of the 21 proposed constitutional amendments passed with over 60% of the vote. The Ohio Constitution Protection Amendment does not obstruct Ohioans from amending the Constitution. If anything, by requiring the support of more Ohioans, **it ensures that only the best principles are being enshrined in our Constitution.**
7. **Lives are at stake if Ohio's constitution is not protected before the 2023 November election.** With pro-abortion groups advancing in their efforts to have a constitutional amendment on the ballot to enshrine abortion access, tens of thousands of babies will be slaughtered each year if passed. Parental rights will be disregarded in protecting teenage girls from abortion procedures and the state will not be permitted to enact any health and safety standards to protect mothers. **Ohio must stop this extreme amendment from defiling our constitution.**