

WHAT'S ON MY OHIO BALLOT?

November 6, 2018

FEDERAL CANDIDATES

US Senator

Responsibilities: Represents the people of Ohio and the U.S. in dealing with matters of national and international importance. The general welfare should be a prime concern. 6-year term

Candidates:
Sherrod Brown (D)
Jim Renacci (R)

US Representative

Responsibilities: To represent the people of their congressional district, and the United States in dealing with matters of national and international importance. The general welfare should be a prime concern. 2-year term.

Candidates: Depends on your district - see www.Vote411.org

STATE CANDIDATES

Ohio Governor

Responsibilities: Head of the executive branch, ensures that all laws are faithfully executed, appoints agency directors, reports on the condition of the state, and presents a proposed budget to the legislature. The governor can sign or veto proposed laws. A member of the Redistricting Commission.

Candidates:
Richard Cordray (D) Mike Dewine (R)
Constance Gadell-Newton (G) Travis Irvine (L)

Ohio Attorney General

Responsibilities: Represents the state in all legal cases in which the state is a party or has a significant interest. The AG defends the state government when it is sued, oversees the prosecution of state crimes, and enforces consumer and environmental protection laws.

Candidates:
Steve Dettelbach (D) Dave Yost (R)

Ohio Auditor

Responsibilities: Audits financial records of state and local government offices in Ohio to ensure public funds are properly spent. A member of the Redistricting Commission.

Candidates:
Keith Faber (R) Zach Space (D)
Robert C. Coogan (L)

Ohio Treasurer

Responsibilities: Collects and safeguards most state taxes and fees, and manages Ohio's investment portfolio.

Candidates:
Rob Richardson (D) Robert Sprague (R)

Ohio Secretary of State

Responsibilities: Oversees the elections in each of Ohio's 88 counties, maintains business records. A member of the Redistricting Commission.

Candidates:
Kathleen Clyde (D) Frank LaRose (R)
Dustin R. Nanna (L)

Ohio Supreme Court Justice (2)

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

Candidates (Race 1): Michael P. Donnelly (D)
Craig Baldwin (R)

Candidates (Race 2): Mary DeGenaro (R)
Melody J. Stewart (D)

Ohio Senate & House

Responsibilities: The Ohio legislature passes all state laws and approves the state budget. Much of the funding allocation to local governments and state agencies is approved through the state, not federal, legislature. House members serve 2-year terms, Senate members serve 4-year terms.

Candidates: Depends on your district - see www.Vote411.org

LOCAL ELECTIONS

City and County leadership, tax levies, local ballot initiatives. SEE www.Vote411.org for your full ballot.

BALLOT ISSUES

Issue 1

To Reduce Penalties for Crimes of Obtaining, Possessing, and Using Illegal Drugs Proposed Constitutional Amendment - Proposed by Initiative Petition

To add a new Section 12 to Article XV of the Constitution of the State of Ohio

A majority yes vote is necessary for the amendment to pass.

Issue 1 proposes an amendment is designed to reduce the number of people in state prisons for low-level, nonviolent drug possession; drug use offenses; or for non-criminal probation violations. In addition, it would provide sentence credits for participation in rehabilitative programs; and is intended to direct the savings achieved by such reductions in incarceration to substance abuse treatment programs, crime victim programs, probation programs, graduated responses programs, and rehabilitation programs.

The amendment would:

- Reclassify drug offenses from felony to misdemeanor for both accused and convicted drug users.
- Require the state to spend savings due to a reduction of the number of prison inmates on drug treatment and rehabilitation programs.

PROS ACCORDING TO PROPONENTS:

1. It would save tens of millions of dollars annually in prison spending and direct the savings to addiction treatment and victims of crime.
2. It would make the possession, obtainment and use of drugs no more than a misdemeanor.
3. It would create a sentence reduction credits program for inmates' participation in rehabilitative, work, or educational programs
4. It would reduce the number of people in state prisons for low-level crimes

CONS ACCORDING TO OPPONENTS:

1. The amendment would make it more difficult to prosecute drug traffickers.
2. This belongs in the Ohio Revised code. The constitution should contain fundamental principles and organization of government. Appropriation directives should not be added to the constitution.
3. This doesn't give judges the ability to use incarceration when they feel it necessary.
4. This proposed constitutional amendment does not provide adequate funding for treatment infrastructure nor treatment itself.