

Vote “YES” on Issue 1

A “YES” vote for Issue 1 would change the Constitution of Ohio to increase from 70 to 75 the maximum age to which a person may be elected or appointed judge.

- ✓ **ISSUE 1 KEEPS EXPERIENCE, KNOWLEDGE, AND INTEGRITY IN THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM.** Ohio voters last addressed the judicial retirement age more than 40 years ago in 1968. The quality of life and life expectancy rates have changed over time. People are living longer and are still mentally sound and physically capable of serving the public beyond age 70. Judges are the only elected officials in Ohio that have a mandatory age of retirement set by the Ohio Constitution. The majority of other states already have age limits higher than 70 or no mandatory age limit on retirement.
- ✓ **ISSUE 1 STILL INCLUDES RIGOROUS JUDICIAL ACCOUNTABILITY.** Ohio has safeguard measures in place to protect the public from judges who are not physically, mentally or intellectually able to carry out the duties of their respective offices. The Supreme Court of Ohio has the constitutional responsibility to oversee the practice of law in the state and has one of the most comprehensive disciplinary systems in the nation. Through the Office of Disciplinary Counsel, all complaints concerning ethical misconduct and/or mental illness of judges or attorneys are fully investigated.
- ✓ **ISSUE 1 CREATES NO ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL BURDEN.** There is no additional cost for Ohio’s taxpayers, to the state, or other funding agencies, as Ohio judges are paid the same amount, regardless of their years of service. Changing the age of retirement does not guarantee that judges automatically get to continue their careers, as Ohio voters will have the final say whether a judge is competent to serve and deserves another term.

*Prepared by Representative Matt Huffman and Senators Larry Obhof,
Scott Oelslager, and Joseph Schiavoni*