

The Ohio Community Rights Amendment

What Does it Say, What Will it Do?

- Declares RIGHT of people to use their municipal and county governments for community self-government and drives the core of the Declaration of Independence into the Ohio Constitution. People have the right to alter, amend, or abolish current system of government through local lawmaking, when it fails to protect the well-being of the people and environment who live within communities served by those governments. **THIS IS WHAT THE REVOLUTION WAS ABOUT IN 1776 AND WHAT WE CELEBRATE EVERY 4TH OF JULY. GOVERNMENT BY THE PEOPLE.**
- It legalizes local laws that protect the rights of people, the community or nature when state, federal or international laws “permit” corporations to violate them, and it authorizes local governments to prohibit activities or projects that would violate those rights. **COMMUNITIES CAN BAN ACTIVITIES THAT VIOLATE RIGHTS.**
- Those laws *may* also limit corporate powers and “rights” as necessary and corporate “constitutional rights” cannot be used to overturn local laws. **PEOPLE AND NATURE ARE NO LONGER SUBORDINATE TO CORPORATIONS, BUT CORPORATIONS ARE SUBJECT TO THE LAWS OF THE PEOPLE.**
- Protects local laws from being overridden or preempted by state, federal or international laws, as long as the local laws do not attempt to limit or restrict existing constitutional rights of people, the community or nature and they don’t weaken laws already in place that protect people, community or nature. **THIS AMENDMENT FORBIDS COMMUNITIES FROM ADOPTING LAWS THAT DISCRIMINATE BASED ON RACE, RELIGION, GENDER, ETC. THIS AMENDMENT ALSO WILL NOT ALLOW COMMUNITIES TO PASS LAWS THAT UNDERMINE EXISTING PROTECTIVE LAWS SUCH AS THE CLEAN WATER ACT, THE CLEAN AIR ACT, THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964, ETC.**

This Amendment is about people being able to not only protect the places they love and call home, but to create the communities they envision for themselves, their children and grandchildren. In our current structure and system, creating a sustainable community is illegal, when our aspirations conflict with the legal privileges and legally protected priorities of wealthy corporations. This amendment would allow every community in Ohio to enact local laws that legalize the fair and just aspirations of the people who, without this amendment, are forbidden from governing corporate behavior by passing local laws regarding local economics, worker’s rights, fair elections, sustainable agriculture and energy policies, protection of water and community utilities from privatization, and other challenges common to our communities.

For More Information visit Ohio Community Rights Network at ohiocrn.org



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The Initiative and Referendum Amendment for Counties and Townships

What Does it Say, What Will it Do?

Ohio Constitution Currently:

Article 2, Section 1f :

The initiative and referendum powers are hereby reserved to the people of each "municipality"

Article 18, Section 1:

Municipal corporations are hereby classified into cities and villages. All having population over 5000 will be cities and under will be villages.

Notice there is no mention of the residents of townships or counties. This needs to be corrected and what this amendment is about.

- Currently all residents of Ohio DO NOT have the same constitutional right to petition to propose laws and repeal laws. Only people living in cities and villages (municipalities) have this right under our constitution. People living in townships and counties do not have the right to petition for new laws or to repeal laws at the local level.
- ALL Ohio residents should have the same constitutional right to propose and repeal laws by initiative in the communities where they live.
- Based on 2015 population statistics, 35% of Ohio residents live in townships and yet they don't have the same constitutional right as the other 65% of Ohio residents living in cities and villages.
- Many industrial projects, waste disposal and other harmful activities are sited in townships. Does it seem fair that these residents have absolutely no power to petition to make laws to protect themselves or to petition and vote on laws that may harm them?

The proposed Initiative and Referendum Amendment is being proposed so that ALL Ohio residents have the same constitutional right to propose and pass laws in their communities so that they too can create the communities that they envision for their children and grandchildren in the future. So that ALL Ohio residents can practice direct democracy in the communities they call home.

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