

Resolution No. 714-2023

By Council Members Griffin, Slife, Spencer, Bishop, Conwell, Gray, Hairston, Harsh, Howse, Jones, Kazy, Kelly, Maurer, McCormack, Polensek, Santana and Starr

FOR ADOPTION
June 5, 2023

AN EMERGENCY RESOLUTION

Strongly opposing State Issue 1 which, if passed at the August 8, 2023, special election, would require a 60% supermajority of Ohio voters to amend the state's constitution, thereby making it more difficult to amend the state constitution and, as a consequence, frustrating the prospects of passing future ballot issues.

WHEREAS, since 1912, Ohio law has called for a simple majority of 50% plus one vote to pass an amendment to the Ohio constitution; and

WHEREAS, last month, Ohio lawmakers passed a joint resolution to place a measure, now called State Issue 1, on a special election ballot in August, making it more difficult to amend the Ohio constitution because State Issue 1 would increase the percentage needed to amend the Ohio constitution to a 60% supermajority; and

WHEREAS, just last year, Ohio lawmakers passed a law eliminating August special elections; now, however, lawmakers want to allow the upcoming August 8th special election, hoping minimal voter turnout will pass the 60% supermajority requirement so that it is more difficult to pass an expected November ballot initiative to amend the Ohio Constitution to protect abortion-rights; and

WHEREAS, Ohio citizens use the constitutional amendment process to pass new laws without the legislature's involvement; State Issue 1 is a blatant effort by the legislature to sneak past Ohio voters an extreme measure that dilutes the political power of Ohioans and subverts the will of the people of Ohio; and

WHEREAS, this resolution constitutes an emergency measure for the immediate preservation of public peace, property, health or safety, now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CLEVELAND:

Section 1. That this Council strongly opposes State Issue 1 which, if passed at the August 8, 2023, special election, would require a 60% supermajority of Ohio voters to amend the state's constitution, thereby making it more difficult to amend the state constitution and, as a consequence, frustrating the prospects of passing future ballot issues.

Section 2. That the Clerk is directed to send copies of this resolution to Governor Mike DeWine, Secretary of State Frank LaRose and to all members of the Ohio General Assembly.

Section 3. That this resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency measure and, provided it receives the affirmative vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to Council, it shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its adoption and approval by the Mayor; otherwise it shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

CS:rns
6/5/2023

Res. No. 714-2023

**REPORT
after Second Reading**

By Council Members Griffin, Slife, Spencer, Bishop, Conwell, Gray, Hairston, Harsh, Howse, Jones, Kazy, Kelly, Maurer, McCormack, Polensek, Santana and Starr

AN EMERGENCY RESOLUTION

Strongly opposing State Issue 1 which, if passed at the August 8, 2023, special election, would require a 60% supermajority of Ohio voters to amend the state's constitution, thereby making it more difficult to amend the state constitution and, as a consequence, frustrating the prospects of passing future ballot issues.

READ FIRST TIME on

REPORTS

and referred to

READ FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD TIME

CITY CLERK

READ SECOND TIME

CITY CLERK

READ THIRD TIME on JUNE 5, 2023

PRESIDENT

CITY CLERK

APPROVED

MAYOR

Recorded Vol. **110** Page _____

Published in the City Record _____