



## **Ohio Issue 1: To Reduce Penalties for Crimes of Obtaining Possessing, and Using Illegal Drugs**

### ***Amendment to Reduce Penalties for Crimes of Obtaining, Possessing & Using Illegal Drugs***

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

Issue 1 would amend the state constitution with the intent of reducing the number of people in state prisons for low-level, nonviolent drug offenses and non-criminal probation violations. It would also provide sentence credits for participation in rehabilitative programs. In addition, it would direct savings from reductions in incarceration to substance-abuse treatment, probation, graduated responses and rehabilitation programs, along with programs to support crime victims.

The amendment would:

- Provide that first and second offenses for obtaining, possessing or using a drug be classified no higher than a misdemeanor.
- Direct the state to spend savings due to any related reduction in the prison population on drug treatment and rehabilitation programs.
- Create sentence reduction credits for inmates' participation in rehabilitative, work or educational programs.

The amendment would **NOT**:

- Affect charges for the sale, distribution or trafficking of drugs.
- Affect sentencing for incarceration of individuals convicted of murder, rape, child molestation or other violent crimes.

### **PROS ACCORDING TO PROPONENTS:**

- Reduces the number of people in prison for low-level nonviolent crimes.
- Saves tens of millions of dollars annually in prison spending.
- Directs savings in prison spending to addiction treatment and victims of crime.
- Addresses interwoven crises of addiction and mass incarceration that the legislature has failed to address in meaningful ways.

### **CONS ACCORDING TO OPPONENTS:**

- Enables violent crime offenders to reduce prison time by doing rehab programs.
- Sends a message to criminals and youth that Ohio is tolerant of drug use.
- Removes the threat of incarceration that can encourage drug treatment participation.
- Legislates through constitutional amendment rather than through the Ohio General Assembly.

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