

ISSUE 5

PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT
 (Proposed by Initiative Petition)

To adopt Section 4 of Article XVII of the Constitution of the State of Ohio.

To create a newly appointed board to administer elections, this amendment would:

- Eliminate responsibility of the elected Ohio Secretary of State to oversee elections.
- Create an appointed board of nine members to administer statewide elections and oversee the existing county boards of elections.
- Provide that the members of the board are appointed as follows: four by the governor, four by the members of the general assembly affiliated with the political party that is not the same as that of the governor, and one by a unanimous vote of the chief justice and justices of the Ohio Supreme Court. The member appointed by the Supreme Court may not be affiliated with a political party. The governor and members of the general assembly must appoint equal numbers of men and women and take into consideration the geographic regions and racial diversity of the state. Members would serve staggered nine-year terms. Members may not hold any elective or other appointive public office, be a candidate for public office, hold a position with a political party, or be a registered lobbyist, and would be prohibited from making or soliciting political contributions and being involved in a candidate or ballot issue campaign.
- Require the state board of elections supervisors to hire an administrative director, to prescribe uniform procedures to be followed by the county boards of elections, to appoint and remove members of the county boards of elections in accordance with statutory provisions, to certify the petitions of candidates for statewide offices and petitions for statewide ballot issues, to certify all equipment and systems used for voting and counting of votes, to approve ballot language for all statewide issues, and to maintain a statewide voter registration file.
- Require the General Assembly to set a reasonable level of compensation for the members of the state board of elections supervisors and to appropriate sufficient funds for the board to be able to fully perform its duties and to compensate such staff and to acquire such equipment, supplies and office space as necessary for such performance.

A majority yes vote is necessary for passage.

	YES	SHALL THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT BE ADOPTED?
	NO	

CERTIFICATION

I, Gretchen A. Quinn, Esq., acting in my capacity as the duly-designated secretary of the Ohio Ballot Board, do hereby certify to the Secretary of the State of Ohio that the foregoing text is the ballot language prescribed by the Ohio Ballot Board, acting pursuant to Article II, Section 1g of the Ohio Constitution, for this constitutional amendment proposed by initiative petition, and which the Secretary of State has ordered to be designated as Issue 5 on the "Official Questions and Issues Ballot" for the election to be held on November 8, 2005.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto subscribed my name at Columbus, Ohio, this 19th day of August 2005.

 Gretchen A. Quinn, Esq.
 Secretary, Ohio Ballot Board