

# Recent Ohio Amendments



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## Ohio Constitution changes: A 67,000-word document just keeps growing

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Dec 4, 2022

### Summary of Ballot Initiatives to Amend the Ohio Constitution

The pace at which voter-initiated amendments to the Ohio Constitution make the statewide ballot has increased in recent decades.

From 2002 through 2022, 16 voter-initiated amendments made the statewide ballot, of which five passed. Sixteen amendments initiated by legislators also reached the ballot in that time, of which 14 passed. That's not counting many proposed amendments that didn't meet the threshold to go before voters.

### Voter-initiated petitions:

#### 2002

To allow some people convicted of drug possession or use to choose treatment instead of jail. Failed, 33% to 67%

#### 2004

To define marriage as between one man and one woman. **Passed, 62% to 38%**

#### 2005

- To allow all voters to use absentee ballots in all elections. Failed, 37% to 63%
- To limit political contributions and revise campaign disclosure rules. Failed, 33% to 67%
- To create a state legislative redistricting commission. Failed, 30% to 70%
- To create a new board to administer elections. Failed, 30% to 70%

#### 2006

- To raise the minimum wage. **Passed, 57% to 43%**
- To allow limited gambling to fund education. Failed, 43% to 57%
- To ban indoor smoking with some exceptions. Failed, 36% to 64%

## 2008

To allow a casino near Wilmington, with tax revenue distributed statewide. Failed, 38% to 62%

## 2009

To allow one casino each in Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus and Toledo, with tax revenue distributed statewide. **Passed, 53% to 47%**

## 2011

- To ensure Ohioans can choose their healthcare and coverage. **Passed, 66% to 34%**
- To create a state commission for legislative redistricting. Failed, 37% to 63%

## 2015

Grant a monopoly for the commercial production and sale of recreational and medicinal marijuana. Failed, 36% to 64%

## 2017

Rights for crime victims. **Passed, 83% to 17%**

## 2018

To reduce penalties for obtaining, possessing and using illegal drugs. Failed, 37% to 63%

## Proposed by General Assembly:

### 2000

To issue bonds for environmental conservation and revitalization projects. **Passed, 57% to 43%**

### 2003

To support research and create jobs. Failed, 49% to 51%

### 2005

To create jobs and stimulate growth. **Passed, 54% to 46%**

### 2008

- To set earlier filing deadlines for statewide ballot issues. **Passed, 69% to 31%**
- To issue bonds for continuing the Clear Ohio environmental program. **Passed, 69% to 31%**
- To protect property rights in water features. **Passed, 72% to 28%**

## 2009

- To issue bonds to compensate veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq wars. **Passed, 72% to 28%**
- To create the Ohio Livestock Care Standards Board and establish standards of care for livestock and poultry. **Passed, 64% to 36%**

## 2010

- To issue more bonds to extend the Ohio Third Frontier Program. **Passed, 62% to 38%**
- To move the authorized Columbus casino location. **Passed, 68% to 32%**

## 2011

To raise the maximum age for election or appointment as a judge, eliminate the General Assembly's authority to establish courts of conciliation and eliminate the governor's authority to appoint a supreme court commission. **Failed, 38% to 62%**

## 2014

To issue bonds for public infrastructure and capital improvements. **Passed, 65% to 35%**

## 2015

- To create a bipartisan public process for legislative redistricting. **Passed, 71% to 29%**
- To protect the initiative process from being used for personal economic gain. **Passed, 51% to 49%**

## 2018

To create a bipartisan public process for drawing congressional districts. **Passed, 75% to 25%**

## 2022

- To require courts to consider public safety during bail hearings. **Passed, 78% to 22%**
- To forbid noncitizens from voting in any state or local elections. **Passed, 77% to 23%**

## Notes and Concerns (not from the article):

The U.S. Constitution has been amended 17 times (after the Bill of Rights). The Ohio Constitution has been amended 172 times.

Look at the relative importance of the citizen led amendments that passed with more than 60% -3/5)  
Should all of these been enshrined in the Constitution, or should they have been enacted as public law?  
Important and publicly popular amendments should get more than 60%.

- Will the minimum wage stay the same forever now? Or will we have to change it periodically?
- Are the need for bond issues a permanent thing, or will they change from time to time?
- Should the Constitution specify the address of an individual Casino in Columbus?
- Should job creation initiatives be enshrined in the Constitution?