

**As Passed by the House**

**135th General Assembly**

**Regular Session**

**2023-2024**

**Sub. H. B. No. 271**

**Representatives Mathews, Peterson**

**Cosponsors: Representatives Gross, Hall, Abrams, Baker, Barhorst, Brennan, Brent, Brewer, Carruthers, Claggett, Creech, Cross, Daniels, Dell'Aquila, Denson, Dobos, Forhan, Ghanbari, Hillyer, Holmes, Jarrells, Johnson, Jones, King, Klopfenstein, Lampton, Liston, Lorenz, McClain, McNally, Miller, J., Miller, M., Mohamed, Patton, Pavliga, Piccolantonio, Pizzulli, Robb Blasdel, Russo, Somani, Swearingen, Thomas, C., Troy, Whitted, Wiggam, Williams**

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**A BILL**

To amend section 3505.06 of the Revised Code to  
specify that state questions and issues  
appearing on ballots must be numbered  
consecutively based on the previous election.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:**

**Section 1.** That section 3505.06 of the Revised Code be  
amended to read as follows:

**Sec. 3505.06.** (A) On the questions and issues ballot shall  
be printed all questions and issues to be submitted at any one  
election together with the percentage of affirmative votes  
necessary for passage as required by law. Such ballot shall have  
printed across the top thereof, and below the stubs, "Official  
Questions and Issues Ballot."

(B) (1) Questions and issues shall be grouped together on  
the ballot from top to bottom as provided in division (B) (1) of

this section, except as otherwise provided in division (B) (2) of 15  
this section. State questions and issues shall always appear as 16  
the top group of questions and issues. In calendar year 1997, 17  
the following questions and issues shall be grouped together on 18  
the ballot, in the following order from top to bottom, after the 19  
state questions and issues: 20

- (a) County questions and issues; 21
- (b) Municipal questions and issues; 22
- (c) Township questions and issues; 23
- (d) School or other district questions and issues. 24

In each succeeding calendar year after 1997, each group of 25  
questions and issues described in division (B) (1) (a) to (d) of 26  
this section shall be moved down one place on the ballot except 27  
that the group that was last on the ballot during the 28  
immediately preceding calendar year shall appear at the top of 29  
the ballot after the state questions and issues. The rotation 30  
shall be performed only once each calendar year, beginning with 31  
the first election held during the calendar year. The rotation 32  
of groups of questions and issues shall be performed during each 33  
calendar year as required by division (B) (1) of this section, 34  
even if no questions and issues from any one or more such groups 35  
appear on the ballot at any particular election held during that 36  
calendar year. 37

(2) Questions and issues shall be grouped together on the 38  
ballot, from top to bottom, in the following order when it is 39  
not practicable to group them together as required by division 40  
(B) (1) of this section because of the type of voting machines 41  
used by the board of elections: state questions and issues, 42  
county questions and issues, municipal questions and issues, 43

township questions and issues, and school or other district 44  
questions and issues. The particular order in which each of a 45  
group of state questions or issues is placed on the ballot shall 46  
be determined by, and certified to each board of elections by, 47  
the secretary of state. 48

(3) Failure of the board of elections to rotate questions 49  
and issues as required by division (B) (1) of this section does 50  
not affect the validity of the election at which the failure 51  
occurred, and is not grounds for contesting an election under 52  
section 3515.08 of the Revised Code. 53

(C) The particular order in which each of a group of 54  
county, municipal, township, or school district questions or 55  
issues is placed on the ballot shall be determined by the board 56  
providing the ballots. 57

(D) The printed matter pertaining to each question or 58  
issue on the ballot shall be enclosed at the top and bottom 59  
thereof by a heavy horizontal line across the width of the 60  
ballot. Immediately below such top line shall be printed a brief 61  
title descriptive of the question or issue below it, such as 62  
"Proposed Constitutional Amendment," "Proposed Bond Issue," 63  
"Proposed Annexation of Territory," "Proposed Increase in Tax 64  
Rate," or such other brief title as will be descriptive of the 65  
question or issue to which it pertains, together with a brief 66  
statement of the percentage of affirmative votes necessary for 67  
passage, such as "A sixty-five per cent affirmative vote is 68  
necessary for passage," "A majority vote is necessary for 69  
passage," or such other brief statement as will be descriptive 70  
of the percentage of affirmative votes required. 71

(E) The questions and issues ballot need not contain the 72  
full text of the proposal to be voted upon. A condensed text 73

that will properly describe the question, issue, or an amendment 74  
proposed by other than the general assembly shall be used as 75  
prepared and certified by the secretary of state for state-wide 76  
questions or issues or by the board for local questions or 77  
issues. If other than a full text is used, the full text of the 78  
proposed question, issue, or amendment together with the 79  
percentage of affirmative votes necessary for passage as 80  
required by law shall be posted in each polling place in some 81  
spot that is easily accessible to the voters. 82

~~(F) Each~~ (F) (1) Except as otherwise provided in division 83  
(F) (2) of this section, each question and issue appearing on the 84  
questions and issues ballot may be consecutively numbered. The 85  
question or issue determined to appear at the top of the ballot 86  
may be designated on the face thereof by the Arabic numeral "1" 87  
and all questions and issues placed below on the ballot shall be 88  
consecutively numbered. Such numeral shall be placed below the 89  
heavy top horizontal line enclosing such question or issue and 90  
to the left of the brief title thereof. 91

(2) Beginning with the general election to be held on 92  
November 5, 2024, a state question or issue determined to appear 93  
at the top of the ballot shall be designated on the face thereof 94  
by the Arabic numeral "1" and all state questions and issues 95  
placed below on the ballot shall be consecutively numbered. For 96  
elections occurring after the general election held on November 97  
5, 2024, a state question or issue determined to appear at the 98  
top of the ballot shall be designated on the face thereof by the 99  
Arabic numeral that is consecutive to the Arabic numeral of the 100  
last state question or issue that appeared on the ballot at the 101  
immediately preceding election at which a state question or 102  
issue appeared on the ballot and all state questions or issues 103  
placed below on the ballot shall be consecutively numbered. Such 104

numeral shall be placed below the heavy top horizontal line 105  
enclosing such question or issue and to the left of the brief 106  
title thereof. Once a state question or issue appears on the 107  
ballot designated by the Arabic numeral "500," the state 108  
question or issue appearing at the top of the ballot at the 109  
immediately following election at which a state question or 110  
issue appears on the ballot shall be designated by the Arabic 111  
numeral "1." 112

(G) No portion of a ballot question proposing to levy a 113  
property tax in excess of the ten-mill limitation under any 114  
section of the Revised Code, including the renewal or 115  
replacement of such a levy, may be printed in boldface type or 116  
in a font size that is different from the font size of other 117  
text in the ballot question. The prohibitions in division (G) of 118  
this section do not apply to printed matter either described in 119  
division (D) of this section related to such a ballot question 120  
or located in the area of the ballot in which votes are 121  
indicated for or against that question. 122

**Section 2.** That existing section 3505.06 of the Revised 123  
Code is hereby repealed. 124