



**CITIZENS FOR  
COMMUNITY VALUES**

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December 5, 2018

To: Chairman William Blessing, III  
Vice Chairman Bill Reineke  
Ranking Member Kathleen Clyde  
Members of the Ohio House Government Oversight and Reform Committee

Dear Chairman Blessing,

Citizens for Community Values supports HJR 19, sponsored by Representatives Sarah LaTourette and Glenn Holmes. We believe this proposal strikes an important balance between safeguarding Ohio from deep-pocketed interests wishing to drive personal agendas into Ohio's Constitution, and protecting the fundamental rights of the citizens of Ohio to set the course for Ohio's governance.

As a non-profit organization that has led a successful initiative to amend Ohio's Constitution, we believe the changes to HJR 19 are neither onerous nor unreasonable.

Ohio's Constitution is the most consequential document to our state. It is a foundational document that secures rights and freedoms for all Ohioans today and tomorrow. This is why it is reasonable and proper to raise the threshold to amend or alter it.

As the 2004 marriage amendment campaign demonstrated, while the 60% threshold is a high mark, it is not unattainable for good ideas with merit. Additionally, the 180-day shelf life for a signature on petitions is also a wise idea, and may reduce the percentages of invalid signatures upon certification. CCV is also an organization that has utilized the initiated statute process found in our Constitution. We support the streamlining of the initiated statute process, which preserves the ability of Ohio citizens to be able to directly engage in the lawmaking process when necessary.

Ohioans should determine Ohio's future – not California billionaires or anyone else from outside the Buckeye state. The Ohio Constitution isn't for sale, and HJR 19 strikes the important balance of protecting the integrity of this document, while maintaining the ability of Ohio citizens to directly engage in the policy-making process.

Citizens for Community Values looks forward to the passage of this needed update to Ohio's Constitutionally-guaranteed right of direct access to the lawmaking process.

Respectfully,

Aaron Baer  
President  
Citizens for Community Values