

November 17, 2017

Attorney General, Mike DeWine  
Constitutional Offices  
30 E. Broad Street, 16<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, Ohio

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NOV 17 2017

Ohio Attorney General  
Constitutional Offices Section

RE: Submission of petitions for state constitutional amendment

**Title: The Ohio Community Rights Amendment**

Delivering 223 6-part petitions on November 17, 2017

Signatures submitted 2030

The following committee and contact person make this submission:

Lisa Kochheiser 1045 Varsity West, Bowling Green, OH 43402

Carolyn Harding 156 N. Roosevelt Ave., Columbus, OH 43209

Katherine Jones 2606 Hidden Spring Lane, Wadsworth, OH 42281

Susan Beiersdorfer 359 Bradley Lane, Youngstown, OH 44504

Gwen Fischer 6793 Cheryl Dr., Hiram, OH 44234

Contact Person:

Tish O'Dell, 7976 McCreary Rd., Broadview Hts., OH 44147 440-838-5272

Received By:

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To the Attorney General of Ohio: Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code §3519.01(A), the undersigned electors of the State of Ohio, numbering in excess of one thousand, hereby submit to you the full text of a proposed Amendment to the Ohio Constitution and a summary of the same.

**INITIATIVE PETITION**  
**Amendment to the Constitution Proposed by Initiative Petition**  
**To be submitted directly to the electors**

**Amendment**

TITLE: The Ohio Community Rights Amendment

**Summary**

This amendment secures the right of local, community self-government for the people of Ohio by guaranteeing local authority to enact laws to protect unalienable rights and the health, safety and welfare of community members and natural ecosystems, free from state preemption or corporate interference. This right includes the power of each Ohioan to act collectively through his or her local government to alter, amend or abolish systems of law and government when they fail to protect or when they directly or indirectly violate the unalienable rights and the health, safety and welfare of community members and natural ecosystems.

Following adoption of this proposed amendment, the right of local community self-government will be exercised through the adoption of county and municipal laws either directly by the people of those communities through the initiative process or by their local elected representatives on behalf of the people of the community. Under this amendment, State laws won't have the power or authority to preempt or overturn local laws enacted to protect the rights of community members and the local ecosystem. Claimed corporate "rights" will not be able to override the rights protected by the exercise of the right of local community self-government. Local laws enacted pursuant to this amendment will not be valid if they violate or diminish the rights of natural persons or ecosystems, nor will they be valid if they reduce established protections in law for natural persons or ecosystems.

**Certification of the Attorney General**

This certification of the Attorney General, pursuant to Ohio Revised Code §3519.01(A), will be inserted when it is provided. This initial petition must be submitted with at least one thousand (1,000) valid signatures of Ohio electors before the Attorney General will issue that certification.

**Committee to Represent the Petitioners**

The following people are designated as the committee to represent the petitioners in all matters relating to the petition or its circulation: Lisa A. Kochheiser, 1045 Varsity West, Bowling Green, Ohio 43402; Carolyn E. Harding, 156 N. Roosevelt Ave., Columbus, Ohio 43209; Katherine S. Jones, 2606 Hidden Spring Lane, Wadsworth, Ohio 44281; Susan L. Beiersdorfer, 359 Bradley Lane, Youngstown, Ohio 44504; Gwen B. Fischer, 6793 Cheryl Drive, Hiram Ohio 44234

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## FULL TEXT OF AMENDMENT

### Be it Enacted by the People of the State of Ohio

In the constitution of the state of Ohio, add section 22 to Article I as follows:

#### Section 22. Right of Local Community Self-Government

(1) All political power is inherent in the people, all government of right originates from the people, and the people have the right to alter, reform, or abolish their governmental system whenever they deem it necessary to protect their liberty and well-being; therefore, the people of Ohio possess an inherent and inalienable right of local community self-government in each county, city, township, and village.

(2) That right shall include the power of the people, and the power of their governments, to enact and enforce local laws that protect health, safety, and welfare by recognizing or establishing rights of natural persons, their local communities, and nature; and by securing those rights using prohibitions and other means deemed necessary by the community, including measures to establish, define, alter, or eliminate competing rights, powers, privileges, immunities, or duties of corporations and other business entities operating, or seeking to operate, in the community.

(3) Local laws adopted pursuant to subsection (2) of this article shall not be subject to preemption or nullification by international law, federal law, or state law, provided that:

(a) Such local laws do not restrict fundamental rights of natural persons, their local communities, or nature secured by local, state, or federal constitutions, or by international law; and

(b) Such local laws do not weaken protections for natural persons, their local communities, or nature provided by state, federal, or international law.

(4) All provisions of this section are self-executing and severable.

**STATEMENT OF CIRCULATOR**

I declare under penalty of election falsification that I am the circulator of the foregoing petition paper containing the signatures of 3, electors, that the signatures appended hereto were made and appended in my presence on the date set opposite each respective name, and are the signatures of the persons whose names they purport to be or of attorneys in fact acting pursuant to section 3501.382 of the Revised Code, and that the electors signing this petition did so with knowledge of the contents of the same.

I am employed to circulate this petition by \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name and address of employer). (The preceding sentence shall be completed as required by section 3501.38 of the Revised Code if the circulator is being employed to circulate the petition.)

I further declare under penalty of election falsification that I witnessed the affixing of every signature to the foregoing petition paper, that all signers were to the best of my knowledge and belief qualified to sign, and that every signature is to the best of my knowledge and belief the signature of the person whose signature it purports to be or of an attorney in fact acting pursuant to section 3501.382 of the Revised Code.

  
Signature of Circulator

4727 HATTICK RD., RAVENNA, OH 44266  
(Address of circulator's permanent residence in this state)

**WHOEVER COMMITS ELECTION FALSIFICATION IS GUILTY OF A FELONY OF THE FIFTH DEGREE.**

**RETURN COMPLETED PETITIONS TO**  
Ohio Community Rights, P.O. Box 470123, BHTS, OH 44147