



Inside this issue:

Hancock County 2
Seneca County 3
Wood County 4
State Issues 5-12
Presidential Candidates 13-14

When You Vote, Take ID

Every voter will be required to provide proof of identity before voting. The form of identification you may use includes your current and valid photo identification card, military identification, copy of a utility bill, bank statement, paycheck government check, or governmental document showing your name and current address. You cannot use a notice that the board of elections mailed to you as a form of identification.

If you do not have ,or fail or refuse to provide, the required proof of identity, you may cast a provisional ballot. For more information on provisional ballots, visit <http://www.sos.state.oh.us>



Fostoria Chamber Legislative Update

November 4, 2008-Presidential General Election

Local Candidate & Issues Guide

On Tuesday, November 4 we encourage you to head to the polls and vote. The election on November 4 will host a myriad important races including the next President of the United States, Ohio Supreme Court Justices, County Commissioners and Prosecutors to name a few.

Please read through our Legislative Update and familiarize yourself with the candidates and the issues.

In this time of political ads we are bombarded by media, which does not always provide accurate information, on candidates and issues. It is important to seek out candidates' true positions on issues

that are important to you.

The Chamber has provided you with a list of candidates and issue overviews. However we strongly encourage you to visit the suggested web sites as well as media source you trust to determine who your best choice is.

On Monday, October 27 from 7-9 p.m. The Review Times and the City of Fostoria will host a Candidate and Issue Forum at Fostoria Middle School. Bring your questions and hear what local candidates have to say about issues which are important to you, our community and our state.

Helpful Sites On the Web

Hancock County Board of Elections
www.HancockBoardofElections.com

Seneca County Board of Elections
www.electionsonthe.net/oh/seneca/

Wood County Board of Elections
www.co.wood.oh.us/BOE/

Ohio Chamber of Commerce
www.OhioChamber.com

Ohio Business Votes
www.OhioBusinessVotes.Org

Ohio Secretary of State
www.sos.state.oh.us

The Small Business Advocate
www.sba.gov/advo

Ohio Council of Retail Merchants & Affiliates
www.ocrm.net

Office of the Ohio Consumers Council
www.pickocc.org

US Chamber of Commerce
www.USChamber.com

Fostoria Chamber Legislative Update

Hancock County

U.S. Representative to Congress

4th District

Mike Carroll (D)

James Jordan (R) * (US Chamber Endorsed)

Ohio House District 76

Cliff Hite (R) * (Ohio Chamber Endorsed)

Patrick Matheny (Write In)

State of Ohio Attorney General

Richard Cordray (D)

Mary Crites (R)

Robert Owens

Justice of the Ohio Supreme Court

Full term Commencing on 1/01/09

Maureen O'Connor (Ohio Chamber Endorsed)

Joseph D. Russo

Full term Commencing on 1/02/09

Peter M. Sikora

Evelyn L. Stratton (Ohio Chamber Endorsed)

State Board of Education

1st District

Ann E. Jacobs

Tracey R. Smith

Hancock County Commissioner

Full term Commencing on 1/02/09

Edward D. Ingold (R) *

Full term Commencing on 1/03/09

Emily A. Walton (R) *

Hancock County Treasurer

J. Steve Welton (R) *

Hancock County Sheriff

Michael E. Heldman (R) *

Hancock County Coroner

Mark R. Fox (R)

Hancock County Prosecuting Attorney

Mark Miller (R) *

Jeff Routson (Nonparty Candidate)

Hancock County Clerk of Courts

Cathy Prosser (R) *

Hancock County Recorder

Nikki Betz (R)

Hancock County Engineer

Steve Wilson (R) *

Common Pleas Court Judge

Joseph Niemeyer *

Common Pleas Court &

Juvenile Division - Allan Davis *

3rd District Court of Appeals

Judge

Vern Preston*

City of Findlay

Proposed Ordinance

Ordinance No. 2007-087 enacted by City Council, regarding the lease and development of City owned property referred to as the Brandman/Swale property is replaced and following is substituted: 1) That any and all further legislation herein specifically referenced or designated by number but having reference to the development and lease of the Brandman/Swale property, be repealed; 2) That any potential commercial and/or residential development of the Brandman/Swale property shall not be allowed unless proposed development is submitted to the citizens for their approval or rejection in a vote; 3) That any future ordinance applicable to the Brandman/Swale property about the commercial and/or residential development of the property shall not be passed as an emergency ordinance.

Hancock County School Issues:

Fostoria City Schools Bond Issue-See Seneca County Page

Liberty Benton Schools-Bond Issue & Tax Levy

Liberty Benton Schools are seeking a 4.3 mill bond issue in addition to a 0.5 mill levy. The 4.3 mill bond issue is to pay the local share of school construction under the State of Ohio Classroom Facilities Assistance Program. The additional 0.5 mill levy is to pay the cost of maintaining the classroom facilities included in the project.

Findlay City Schools Tax Levy (Replacement)

This is a proposed replacement of a tax to benefit Findlay City School District for the purpose of current expenses not to exceed 5.9 mills for five years.

North Baltimore School District-See Wood County Page

US Representative to Congress

5th District:

George F. Mays (D)

Bob Latta (R) *

Ohio Senate District 26

Karen Gillmor (R) (Ohio Chamber Endorsed)

Thomas Kruse (D)

Ohio House District 81

Jeffrey Wagner (R) *

Andrew Kashmer (D)

State of Ohio Attorney General

Richard Cordray (D)

Mary Crites (R)

Justice of the Ohio Supreme Court

Full term Commencing on 1/01/09

Maureen O'Connor

Joseph D. Russo

Full term Commencing on 1/02/09

Peter M. Sikora

Evelyn L. Stratton

State Board of Education

1st District

Ann E. Jacobs

Tracey R. Smith

Seneca County Commissioner

Full term Commencing on 1/2/09

Jacqueline Fletcher (D)

David Sauber (R) *

Cheryl Huss

Full term Commencing on 1/3/09

Ben Nutter (D) *

Holly Stacy (R)

Terry Love

Seneca County Auditor

Julie Adkins (R)

Seneca County Treasurer

Damon Alt (R)

Marguerite Bernard (D)

Seneca County Coroner

Mark Akers

Seneca County Prosecuting Attorney

Derek Devine

Ken Egbert Jr. (R)

Seneca County Sheriff

Tom Steyer

Seneca County Clerk of Courts

Mary Ward (R)

Seneca County Recorder

Michael Dell (R)

Seneca County Engineer

Mark Zimmerman (R)



Seneca County Common Pleas Court Judge

Jay Meyer (R)

3rd District Court of Appeals Judge

Vern Preston*

Mental Health & Recovery

Services Board Levy

The proposed additional tax levy is a 0.8 mill, 5 year levy commencing in 2008, first due in calendar year 2009. The purpose of the levy is for the operation of mental health and recovery programs.

Fostoria City Schools Bond Issue

The proposed bond issue is for the purpose of constructing, adding to, renovating, remodeling, furnishing, equipping and otherwise improving school district buildings and facilities as may be required for participation in the State of Ohio Classroom Facilities Assistance Program, and acquiring, improving and equipping their sites. It is a 3.1 mil for each one dollar of tax valuation, which amounts to 31 cents for each one hundred dollars of tax valuation. The issue also levies an additional .5 mil property tax to provide funds and financing for general permanent improvements on new facility.

For more information visit: www.fostoriaschools.org

Endorsed by: Fostoria Area Chamber of Commerce

Fostoria Economic Development Corporation

Fostoria Chamber Legislative Update

Wood County

US Representative to Congress

5th District

George F. Mays (D)

Bob Latta (R) *

Ohio Senate District 2

Jackie Brown (D)

Mark Wagoner (R) * (Ohio Chamber Endorsed)

Ohio House District 6

Jeffery Bretz (D)

Randy Gardner (R)

State of Ohio Attorney General

Richard Cordray (D)

Mary Crites (R)

Justice of the Ohio Supreme Court

Full term Commencing on 1/01/09

Maureen O'Connor (Ohio Chamber Endorsed)

Joseph D. Russo

Full term Commencing on 1/02/09

Peter M. Sikora

Evelyn L. Stratton (Ohio Chamber Endorsed)

Wood County Commissioner

Full term Commencing on 1/02/09

James Carter (R)

Joel Kuhlman (D)

Full term Commencing on 1/03/09

Alvin Perkins (D)

James Witker (R)

Wood County Treasurer

Jill Engle ((R)

Wood County Sheriff

Mark Hummer

Mark Wasylshyn (R)

Wood County Coroner

Douglas Hess (R)

Wood County Prosecuting Attorney

Paul Dobson (R)

Wood County Recorder

Julie Baumgardner (D)

Mike Merrilat (R)

Wood County Engineer

Raymond Huber (R)

Matthew Tewers

Clerk of Common Pleas Court Judge

Gordy Heminger (D)

Cindy Hofner (R)

Common Pleas Court Judge

Alan Mayberry (R)

Probate Court Judge

David Woessner (R)

6th District Court of Appeals Judge

Full term Commencing on 2/9/09

Thomas Osowik (D)

Full term Commencing on 2/10/09

Arlene Singer (D)

Wood County Alcohol Drug Addiction & Mental Health Services Board Proposed Tax Levy (Replacement)

A replacement tax levy for the purpose of providing necessary alcohol, drug addiction and mental health needs at a rate not to exceed 1 mill for each one dollar valuations, which amounts to ten cents for each one hundred dollars of valuation.

Wood County School Issues:

North Baltimore Schools Income Tax & Bond Issue

North Baltimore School District is proposing an annual income tax of 0.25% for 25 years for general permanent improvements. They are also seeking a 7.44 mill bond issue for the purpose of constructing, renovating, remodeling, rehabilitating, adding to, furnishing, equipping and otherwise improving school district buildings and facilities and acquiring, improving and equipping real estate for school purposes.

**"America is not governed by the majority,
but governed by the majority of those who participate."**

~Thomas Jefferson

A Snapshot of the State Issues...

Issues 1, 2 & 3 are all proposed constitutional amendments and were placed on the ballot by the Ohio legislature.

Issue 5 (Payday lenders) is a voter-initiated referendum which would repeal a section of legislation passed by the Ohio General Assembly prohibiting payday lenders from making certain types of loans.

Issue 6 (authorizing a casino) was certified for the ballot following a voter-initiated petition drive.

Issue I: To Provide for Earlier Filing Deadlines for Statewide Ballot Issues

Ballot Language

Issue I: Proposed Constitutional Amendment: To Provide for Earlier Filing Deadlines for Statewide Ballot Issues

To amend Sections 1a, 1b, and 1g of Article II of the Constitution of the State of Ohio

The proposed Amendment would: (1.) Require that a citizen-initiated statewide ballot issue be considered at the next general election if petitions are filed 125 days before the election. (2.) Establish deadlines for boards of elections to determine the validity of citizen-initiated petitions. (3.) Standardize the process for legal challenges to citizen-initiated petitions by giving the Ohio Supreme Court jurisdiction to consider these cases and establishing expedited deadlines for the Court to make decisions.

A “YES” vote approves the amendment

A “NO” vote disapproves the amendment

Issue I Explanation

This proposed constitutional amendment seeks to make the petition filing deadlines earlier for statewide ballot issues. Currently, the deadlines are 90 days before the election for statewide initiative petitions (laws and constitutional amendments proposed by citizens) and 60 days for statewide referendums (citizen-initiated votes to repeal new laws). The amendment would change these deadlines to 125 days for both. The proposal adds deadlines for public officials to act on the petitions. It requires the secretary of state to determine whether there are enough valid signatures on a petition by the 105th day before the election. Challenges must be filed in the Ohio Supreme Court not later than 95 days prior to the election. The Ohio Supreme Court must make its decision not later than 85 days prior to the election. If necessary, 10 additional days shall be allowed for the filing of additional signatures. The secretary of state shall check the additional signatures not later than 65 days before the election. Any challenges must be filed in the Ohio Supreme Court not later than 55 days before the election, and the court must rule on any challenges not later than 45 days before the election. If no ruling is made, the petition and signatures shall be presumed to be sufficient. The proposed amendment would give the Ohio Supreme Court sole authority to consider these cases. Currently lower courts may hear these challenges.

Issue 1 Continued:

Proponents of the proposed amendment argue:

- The earlier deadlines will allow more time to determine the validity of the petition and the signatures. This should reduce the number of invalid issues that appear on ballots and reduce voter confusion.
- If deadlines are met, absentee voters and election-day voters will know which issues were supported by sufficient valid petitions.
- The process should be more efficient because the amendment provides for specific deadlines for each step of the process.
- Having the Ohio Supreme Court as the sole arbiter of challenges expedites the process.

Opponents of the proposed amendment argue that:

- The revised deadlines may still not allow time to print correct ballots.
 - The revised deadlines decrease the time for each step of the review and may be difficult to meet.
 - The earlier deadlines for referenda may result in long delays for voter consideration of challenged laws because laws challenged by the referendum process are suspended until approved by voters. Challengers have 90 days after a law is passed to file a referendum petition. Because this may not be completed before the filing deadline for ballot issues, a vote on the challenged law may be postponed until the following general election.
 - As sole arbiter of challenges, the Ohio Supreme Court will not have the benefit of a record from lower courts.
-

Issue 2: Authorization of the State to Issue Bonds for Clean Ohio Program

Ballot Language

Issue 2: Proposed Constitutional Amendment : To Authorize the State to issue bonds to continue the Clean Ohio Program for environmental revitalization and conservation.

To adopt Section 2q of Article VIII of the Constitution of the State of Ohio

The proposed amendment would: 1.) Authorize the state to issue up to two hundred million dollars (\$200,000,000) of bonds for conservation and preservation of natural areas, open spaces and farmlands and other lands devoted to agriculture, including by acquiring land or interests in land; provision of state and local park and recreation facilities, and other actions that permit and enhance the availability, public use and enjoyment of natural areas in the state; and land, forest, water and other natural resource management projects. (2.) Authorize the state to issue bonds up to two hundred million dollars (\$200,000,000) for environmental revitalization and re-development of publicly and privately owned lands, including environmental remediation, assessment or clean up of contamination or pollution. (3.) Limit the amount that could be borrowed in any one fiscal year for either the conservation or revitalization purposes to no more than fifty million dollars (\$50,000,000) plus the principal amount of those obligations that in any prior fiscal year could have been but were not issued.

If adopted, this amendment shall take effect immediately.

A "YES" vote means approval of the amendment

A "NO" vote means disapproval of the amendment

Issue 2 Explanation

This ballot issue proposes a constitutional amendment that would add to funding for The Clean Ohio Program. The amendment is identical to the bond issue passed by the voters in 2000 and will provide the state with the authority to issue an additional \$400 million of bonds. These bonds could be used for the benefit of both governmental and non-governmental entities. This bonding authority must be approved by the voters because the Ohio constitution does not permit an appropriation being made for a period longer than two years.

- **Conservation:** Up to \$200 million in bonds could be issued for conservation purposes such as preservation of natural areas and farmlands, provision of recreation facilities, and natural resource management projects. Repayment of these bonds would be a general obligation of the state backed by the taxing power of the state.
- **Revitalization:** Up to \$200 million in bonds could be issued for revitalization purposes such as environmental cleanup of publicly or privately owned lands. Repayment of these bonds would be secured by specific state revenues such as receipts from liquor taxes.
- **Limitations:** The proposed amendment limits the amount that could be borrowed in any one fiscal year for either conservation or revitalization purposes to no more than \$50 million. In addition, the state can borrow amounts which were authorized but not issued in prior fiscal years.
- **Reissuance:** After a bond is repaid, another can be issued as long as the total amount outstanding does not exceed \$200 million for that type of bond.
- **Debt Service Expense:** The Legislative Services Commission estimates that issuing \$400 million of obligations could increase the state's annual debt service expense by up to \$40 million. The Ohio Office of Budget and Management calculated that principle and interest payable in 2008 for all of the bonds already issued by Ohio is \$1,231,640,023.

Proponents of the proposed amendment argue that:

- Bond monies could be used to improve drinking water, help keep rivers and streams clean.
- Preserve and protect wildlife and farmland, and expand outdoor recreational opportunities for Ohioans.
- Bond monies could be used to reduce the number of polluted industrial sites and clean up brown fields
- Revitalization of public and private lands could stimulate economic development in urban areas and increase private investment in Ohio.

Opponents of the proposed amendment argue that:

- Tax monies will be diverted to paying principle and interest, and this may limit the availability of state revenue for other state programs.
- This authority is not time-limited and permits new bonds to be reissued after the retirement of the original bonds without further vote of the people.
- Proceeds from the sale of the publicly funded bonds may be used to benefit private entities.

Supporter of Issue 2:

Ohio Chamber of Commerce
Ohio Environmental Council
The League of Women Voters of Ohio
Ohio League of Conservation Voters
AFL-CIO

Official Oppositions statements were provided to the Ohio Secretary of State's Office by the Ohio Ballot Board in the absence of any submission in opposition, as required by Ohio Revised Code.

Fostoria Chamber Legislative Update

Issue 3: Protect Private Property Rights in Ground Water, Lakes & Watercourses

Ballot Language

Issue 3: Proposed Constitutional Amendment: To Amend the Constitution to Protect Private Property Rights in Ground Water, Lakes and other Watercourses

To adopt Section 19b of the Article of the Constitution of the State of Ohio

This proposed Amendment would: 1.) Make explicit that a private property owner has a right to make reasonable use of the ground water that lies beneath the owner's land, although this right is subordinate to the public welfare. (2.) Make explicit that a private property owner who owns land on the border of a lake or other watercourse has a right to make reasonable use of the water in a lake or other watercourse located on or flowing through the owner's land, although this right is subordinate to the public welfare. (3.) Not affect the public's use of Lake Erie and other navigable waters of the state. (4.) Prevent the rights confirmed under this proposed amendment to the Ohio Constitution from being impaired or limited by the operation of other section of the Ohio Constitution.

If approved, this amendment shall take effect December 1, 2008.

A "YES" vote means approval of the amendment.

A "NO" vote means disapproval of the amendment.

Issue 3 Explanation

: This proposed amendment resulted from the Ohio legislature's passage of the Great Lakes Water Compact this past spring. Some lawmakers feared final approval of the Compact might limit private water rights. The constitutional amendment is intended to recognize that:

- Property owners have a protected right to the "reasonable use" of the ground water flowing under their property, and of the water in a lake or watercourse that is on or flows through their property.
- An owner has the right to give or sell these interests to a governmental body.
- The public welfare supersedes individual property owners' rights. The state and political subdivisions may regulate such waters to the extent state law allows
- The proposed amendment would not affect public use of Lake Erie and the state's other navigable waters.
- The rights confirmed by this amendment may not be limited by sections of the Ohio Constitution addressing home rule, public debt and public works, conservation of natural resources, and the prohibition of the use of "initiative" and "referendum" on property taxes.

Issue 3 Continued:

Proponents of the proposed amendment argue that:

- This amendment, if approved, is intended to reaffirm the rights and expectations of Ohio landowners to have reasonable use of the water on or under their properties.
- The proposed amendment does not establish absolute private ownership of water.
- It reiterates the state's right to regulate water use and water quality.

Opponents of the proposed amendment argue that:

- The amendment is unnecessary because current Ohio case law already recognizes property owners' interests in the reasonable use of surface and groundwater.
- The Ohio Constitution should be a body of fundamental principles, and should not be amended unless there is a compelling reason.
- The amendment could cause unexpected consequences and unintentional changes in current law.

Official arguments in support of Issue 3 were submitted to the Ohio Secretary of State by Ohio State Senators Timothy Grendell and Capri Cafaro, the group appointed by the Ohio General Assembly to prepare the argument for Issue 3.

Opponents of Issue 3:

The League of Women Voters of Ohio
Ohio League of Conservation Voters

Supporters of Issue 3:

Ohio Chamber of Commerce

Issue 5: Referendum on Legislation Making Changes to Check Cashing Lending

Ballot Language

Substitute House Bill 545 (H.B. 545), which was passed by the Ohio legislature and signed into law by the Governor, substantially changed the law regulating how certain lenders in Ohio operate. Under the referendum, voters must decide whether Section 3 of H.B. 545 should go into effect. Section 3 of H.B. 545 deletes the old provisions of the law regulating check cashing lenders, sometimes known as "payday lenders," in favor of the new provisions.

1. If a majority of Ohio voters approve Section 3 of H.B. 545, all short term lenders, including check cashing lenders, would be subject to the following limitations: (a) The maximum loan amount would be \$500. (b) Borrowers would have at least 30 days to repay the loan (c) The maximum interest rate would be 28% annual percentage rate (APR) on all loans.
2. If a majority of Ohio voters reject Section 3 of H.B. 545, check cashing lenders would be allowed to continue under previous law as follows: (a) The maximum loan amount would continue to be \$800. (b) There would continue to be no minimum repayment period (c) Check cashing lenders could continue to charge rates and fees, resulting in a total charge for a loan that substantially exceeds an equivalent APR of 28%.

A "YES" vote means you approve of Section 3 of H.B. 545, and want to limit the interest rate for short term loans to 28% APR and change short term lending laws.

A "NO" vote means you disapprove of Section 3 of H.B. 545. and want to permit check cashing lenders to continue to be able to offer short term loans as currently permitted.

Fostoria Chamber Legislative Update

Issue 5 Explanation

Voters are being asked if they want to uphold the legislature's repeal of lenders' authority to charge interest that could be as high as 391%. If the referendum is approved (the "yes" votes prevail), all short-term lenders, including payday lenders, would be subject to the following limitations:

- Cap the interest that payday lenders can charge consumers at 28%.
- Limit the amount consumers may borrow from payday lenders to 25% of their monthly income, up to \$500 per loan.
- Limit consumers to four short-term loans per year.
- Provide for a minimum of at least 30 days for a borrower to repay a loan.

Proponents of the referendum argue that:

- The new regulations would cap the interest for payday loans at 28%, which effectively ends lenders' ability to charge up to 391% interest.
- Limiting the number of loans customers can take out annually would help break the cycle of debt in which many customers find themselves trapped. Data show that 99% of payday loans go to repeat borrowers—who typically take out 12 or more loans a year.
- Passage of Issue 5 would give borrowers more time to repay a loan—and by limiting the amount a consumer can borrow, would help insure that customers do not borrow more than they can afford to repay.

Opponents of the referendum argue that:

- The 28% ceiling on interest rates will not allow lenders to make enough profit to stay in business; lenders will be forced to close locations convenient for borrowers and jobs will be lost.
- The loans provide emergency assistance to cash-strapped borrowers who have no other credit options—and the loans are more affordable, if repaid promptly, than bank overdraft fees and credit card late fees.
- A borrower's choice is limited if the number of loans available in a year and the amount of each loan are curtailed. Each borrower should have the right to make their own financial decisions without government restrictions.

Official arguments against Issue 5 were submitted by Committee to Reject H.B. 545, Stephen J. Schaller, Robert Greiser and Bridgette Roman to the Secretary of State's office.

Official arguments for Issue 5 were submitted by Michael B. Coleman, Mayor of Columbus; Philip Cole, Executive Director, Ohio Assoc. of Community Action Agencies; Lisa Hamler-Fugitt, Executive Director, Ohio Assoc. of Second Harvest Food Banks; Bishop Bruce Ough, Bishop, Ohio West Area United Methodist Church; E.J. Thomas, Chairman, Habitat for Humanity to the Ohio Secretary of State.

Opponents of Issue 5:

Ohio Chamber of Commerce
 Ohioans for Financial Freedom
 Coalition Opposed to Additional Spending and Taxes (COAST)
 Property Rights Freedom Fighters
 Ohio Christian Alliance
 Dr. Tom Lehman,
 The Buckeye Institute for Public Policy Solutions
 Tom Jackson, President/CEO of Ohio Grocers Association

Supporters of Issue 5:

Vote Yes on Issue 5 Committee
 (www.voteyesonissue5.com)
 AARP
 Catholic Conference of Ohio
 Ohio Farm Bureau
 AFL-CIO
 Ohio Manufacturer's Assoc.
 Habitat for Humanity
 Coalition on Homelessness & Housing in Ohio

Issue 6: To Authorize a Casino in Clinton County

Ballot Language

Issue 6 Proposed Constitutional Amendment: To Amend the Constitution by Initiative Petition for a Casino near Wilmington in Southwest Ohio and Distribute to all Ohio Counties a Tax on the Casino.

To adopt Section 6a to Article XV of the Ohio Constitution.

This proposed amendment would:

1. Authorize one privately owned casino with a required minimum initial investment of \$600 million dollars on a 94-acres site located neat the northwest corner of State Route 73 and Interstate 71 in southwest Ohio in Chester Township near Wilmington, Clinton County, Ohio.
2. Require the casino to pay a tax of up to 30% on its gross receipts for gaming less payouts. The taxes are to be used first to pay expenses of regulating and collecting taxes from the casino, then for funding of gambling prevention and treatment programs, and the remainder to be distributed in the amount of 10% to Clinton County and 90% to the remaining counties based on population and to be used at each county's discretion.
3. Reduce the tax paid by the casino authorized by this amendment to the lesser rate taxed on another casino or 25%, in the event another casino is permitted in Ohio in the future.
4. Require the casino is subject to all other applicable types of taxes that are currently in effect in Ohio.
5. Authorize the casino to conduct any game permitted in the State of Nevada, or any stat adjacent to Ohio, including type of card or table games, slot machines, and electronic gaming devices, except bets on races or sporting events. Only persons ages 21 and over would be permitted to place bets. Amounts of bets would not be subject to any limits now or in the future. Days and hours of operation would not be subject to limit.
6. Set aside the application to the casino of all local and state laws and an constitutional provisions that would prohibit the operation of this privately owned casino, including any local zoning law that would prohibit or place restrictions on a casino from operating on the property in question.

If approved, this proposed amendment shall take effect 30 days after the election.

A "YES" vote means you approve of amending the Ohio Constitution to permit one casino near Wilmington in southwest Ohio.

A "NO" vote means you disapprove of amending the Ohio Constitution to permit one casino near Wilmington in southwest Ohio.

Issue 6 Explanation

This amendment would authorize a privately-owned casino in Clinton County.

- The operator would be required to pay a tax of up to 30% annually on gross casino receipts. "Gross casino receipts" excludes payments to winners. The tax would be allocated in the following ways:
- The Ohio General Assembly would have the authority to determine a reasonable amount to be used to fund a Gaming Regulatory Commission, and receipts will be used to pay the expenses of administering the tax.

Issue 6 Explanation Continued:

- Up to 1% of the tax collected would be used to fund prevention and treatment programs for gambling addicts.
- Following those expenditures, 10% percent of any remaining casino tax receipts would be distributed to Clinton County, and the remaining receipts distributed among all 88 Ohio counties on a per capita basis, to be used as each county sees fit.
- If another casino were permitted in Ohio, the tax on the Clinton County casino would drop to 25% of the gross casino receipts or the rate paid by the additional casino, whichever is less.
- The casino operator must make a minimum initial investment of \$600 million for the development of a destination resort that would include the casino, a hotel and other related amenities.
- The state may establish an initial license fee not to exceed \$15 million, which will be credited against the first \$15 million of taxes on gross casino receipts. There can be no further licensing fees for the Clinton County casino.
- The state may not limit the amounts of the wagers or the hours of operation. The casino may conduct any type of card or table games, slot machines or electronic gaming devices permitted by the state of Nevada and states adjacent to Ohio, except bets on races or sporting events.
- Persons must be 21 years old to place wagers at the casino.

Proponents of the proposed amendment argue that:

- Thirty-eight states—including Kentucky, Indiana, Michigan, and Pennsylvania—have casino gambling. By authorizing a casino in Ohio, the profits could benefit our state rather than other states.
- All counties in Ohio may receive tax revenue generated by the casino, and each county can decide how to best spend its money
- The casino will also be required to pay all other applicable taxes.
- The casino will create jobs in Clinton County.

Opponents of the proposed amendment argue that:

The Ohio general revenue fund, which supports basic services for Ohioans, will get \$0 from the gross casino receipts tax.

If an additional casino were an Indian casino, which is exempt from taxes, the Clinton County casino might not pay any taxes, either, on the gross casino receipts.

Ohioans may spend money at the casino they would have spent at other existing Ohio businesses such as restaurants, movies, or sports events, adversely impacting those businesses.

Ohio lottery profits, currently dedicated to education, may decrease because people will gamble at the casino instead of playing the lottery.

The number of gambling addicts in Ohio would increase, and the tax receipts dedicated to providing treatment for addicts (0.3% of gross casino receipts) could be insufficient.

Supporters of Issue 6:

My Ohio Now (<http://www.yesonissue6.com/>)

Ohio AFL-CIO

Opponents of Issue 6:

Vote No Casinos (www.votenocasinos.com)

No on 6

UNITE HERE

Ohio Council of Churches

Ohio Chamber of Commerce

Presidential Candidates

8 President/Vice Presidential candidates will appear on the November 4 ballot. A list of write-in candidates can be provided to you upon request from a poll worker at your voting location.

Appearing on the ballot as candidates for President/Vice President:

John McCain/Sarah Palin Republican Party	Chuck Baldwin/ Darrell Castle Constitution Party	Richard Duncan/Ricky Johnson No party affiliation listed	Brian Moore/Stewart Alexander Socialist Party
Barack Obama/Joe Biden Democratic Party	Bob Barr/Wayne Allen Root Libertarian Party	Cynthia McKinney/Rosa Clemente Green Party	Ralph Nader/Matt Gonzalez No party affiliation listed

Republican Ticket

*Information listed for each Presidential Candidate was taken from the Oct. *uschamber.com* Magazine



John McCain

Education: Supports Extending and strengthening No Child Left Behind • Would raise standards for Head Start teachers • Has a plan to recruit, prepare, retrain, and reward teachers that include performance bonuses • Supports greater school choice, including the option of private and charter schools • Supports giving principals more control over spending • Supports simplifying tax benefits • Would provide more money to community colleges to set aside for displace or unemployed workers.

Energy & The Environment: Supports a carbon emissions cap-and-trade system with a goal of reducing emissions 60% below 1990 levels by 2050 • Supports lifting the ban on offshore drilling • Opposes drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge • Would commit \$2 billion annually to advance clean coal technologies • Would offer a \$300 million prize for producing battery technology for full commercial development of plug-in hybrid and fully electric automobiles • Would raise penalties that automakers pay for violating fuel economy standards • Calls on automakers to make a more rapid and complete switch to flex-fuel vehicles • Supports a one-time suspension of the 18.4% federal gas tax • Would offer a \$5,000 tax credit for the purchase of a zero-emissions car • Proposes a goal to build 45 new nuclear power plants by 2030 and supports nuclear waste storage site at Yucca Mountain in Nevada • Proposes tax credits to encourage the market for alternative fuels such as wind, hydro, and solar power.



Sarah Palin

Health Care: Opposes a national health insurance mandate • Wants to strengthen the individual health insurance market by giving a \$2,500 direct refundable tax credit to individuals and \$5,000 to families to offset the cost of insurance. Tax incentives for employer-sponsored health coverage would be eliminated. • Would make available Subsidized Guaranteed Access Plans to those with preexisting

conditions and other who have trouble finding coverage in the individual market • Supports broad adoption of health information technology and expansion of Health Savings Accounts • Supports association health plans, which would allow small businesses to band together across state lines to purchase health insurance • Call for safe reimportation of drug and faster introduction of generic drugs • Supports medical liability reform •

Immigration: Co-authored with Sen. Kennedy (D-MA) legislation creating a pathway to citizenship for undocumented workers, a temporary guest worker program, and a new electronic employment verification system with tougher penalties for employers that knowingly hire unauthorized workers. • Supports securing the nation's borders first and requiring governors of border states to certify that their border are secure before addressing other areas of comprehensive immigration reform • Voted to authorize construction of a 700 mile fence along the U.S.-Mexican border.

Labor & Workforce Regulations: Voted against card check legislation, which would allow unions to organize workers by having them sign a card in the presence of labor officials, instead of private ballot • Supported the invalidation of the Clinton-era ergonomics regulation

Taxes: Would make the 2001 and 2003 tax cuts permanent for all households • Would cut the corporate tax rate from 35% to 25% • Would raise the federal death tax exemption to \$5 million (\$10 million for married couples) and cut the rate to 15% • Supports maintaining a 15% tax on capital gains and dividend income • Wants to establish a permanent tax credit for research and development • Wants to phase out the alternative minimum tax (AMT) completely • Would keep the top income tax rate at 35% • Proposes to raise the personal exemption for each dependent from \$3,500 to \$7,000 • Would allow first year taxpayers to choose between the current tax system or a less complicated one with two tax rates and generous standard deduction • Would seek permanent ban on Internet taxes.

Trade: Supports pending free trade agreements with Colombia, Panama and South Korea • Voted for and continues to support NAFTA.

Fostoria Chamber Legislative Update

Democratic Ticket



Barack Obama

Education: Would overhaul No Child Left Behind to change how students are assessed and would provide support to schools that need improvement • Would create early learning challenge grants to promote state “zero to five” efforts and help states move toward voluntary, universal preschool • Would quadruple Early Head Start and spend \$10 billion to boost slots and quality Head Start programs • Supports school choice within public education • Proposes a tax credit of up to \$4,000 for higher education tuition in exchange for community service • Would provide community colleges with additional grants.

Energy and The Environment: Supports carbon emissions cap-and-trade system with a goal of reducing the emissions 80% below the 1990 levels by 2050 • Supports lifting the ban on offshore drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge • Would tap the Strategic Oil Reserve to cut gasoline prices • Backs a windfall profit tax on oil companies • Proposes giving American families an immediate \$1,000 emergency energy rebate • Proposes spending \$150 billion over 10 years to spur private efforts to develop renewable energy sources • Would create public-private partnerships to develop five “first-of-a-kind” commercial scale coal-fired plants with clean carbon capture and sequestration technology • Would double fleet-wide fuel economy standards by 2028 and provide \$4 billion in credits and loans to domestic automakers to help reach those standards • Would require 10% of electricity to come from renewable sources by 2012 and 25% by 2025 • Opposes a suspension of the federal gas tax • Wants to put 1 million plug-in hybrids on the road by 2015 and create a new \$7,000 tax credit for the purchase of clean-fuel vehicles • Opposes storing nuclear waste at Yucca Mountain in Nevada.



Joe Biden

Health Care: Would create a new public health insurance program for individuals who do not have employer-provided health care and who do not qualify for other existing federal programs. Existing federal health insurance programs would be expanded • Would mandate health insurance coverage for people up to age 25 • Would require large employers that do not provide health coverage for employees to pay into the national insurance program • Would provide some small businesses with a refundable tax credit of up to 50% on what they spend on employee health insurance premiums • Would create a national health insurance exchange to help more people find private insurance plans. These plans would have to meet a number of requirements to participate in the exchange • Supports broad adoption of health information technology • Supports safe reimportation of drugs from developed nations and would prohibit efforts to keep generic out of the market. Would allow the government to set Medicare drug prices • Supports insurance coverage for serious mental illnesses on the same terms as other illnesses.

Immigration: Co-authored an amendment to the McCain/Kennedy immigration bill that would have created a new electronic employment eligibility verification system and tougher penalties for employers that knowingly hire unauthorized workers • Supports creating a pathway to citizenship for undocumented workers and a temporary guest worker program • Voted to authorize the construction of a 700-mile fence along the U.S.-Mexican border.

Labor & Workforce Regulations: Co-sponsored card check legislation, which would allow unions to organize workers by having them sign a card in the presence of union officials, instead of voting by private ballot • Would expand the Family Medical Leave Act to apply to businesses with 25 or more employees. Would also expand the scope of the law to allow workers to take leave for elder care needs and to address domestic violence as well as let parents take up to 24 hours of leave each year to participate in their children’s academic activities • Would encourage states to pass mandated paid sick leave • Proposes to raise the minimum wage and index it to inflation.

Taxes: Would repeal the 2001 and 2003 tax cuts for making more than \$250,000 a year • Would repeal tax breaks and loopholes for companies that retain their earnings overseas and use those funds to lower the corporate tax rate on companies that expand or start operations in the United States • Would provide a tax credit of up to \$500 per person or \$1,000 for working families • Would eliminate taxes for seniors making less than \$50,000 per year • Would freeze the federal death tax exemption at \$3.5 million (\$7 million for married couples) and maintain a top tax rate of 45% • Proposes to increase taxes on capital gains and dividend income to 20% for individuals and families making more than \$200,000 and \$250,000 per year, respectively • Would triple the Earned Income Tax Credit for minimum wage workers • Would adjust, but not phase out, the alternative minimum tax (AMT) • Wants to establish a permanent tax credit for research and development • Would raise the top two income tax rates from 33% and 35% to 36% and 36.9%, respectively • Would impose an unspecified Social Security payroll tax on earnings above the \$250,000 beginning in 10 years. (Currently, earnings of up to \$102,000 are subject to payroll taxes) • Would eliminate all capital gains taxes on start-up and small businesses.

Trade: Opposes pending free trade agreements with Colombia, Panama and South Korea • Would reopen NAFTA to amend labor and environmental provisions • Calls for more environmental and labor standards in trade agreements.

The Legislative Update is a Member/Investor benefit of the Fostoria Area Chamber of Commerce.

For more information contact the Chamber at 419-435-0486.