

VILLAGE OF YELLOW SPRINGS, OHIO

Resolution 2024-62

SUPPORTING PASSAGE OF ISSUE 1
ON THE NOVEMBER 5, 2024 ELECTION BALLOT AND
ENDORING THE “CITIZENS NOT POLITICIANS” CAMPAIGN

WHEREAS, Issue 1 in the forthcoming election on November 5, 2024 is a proposal for “An Ohio Constitutional Amendment for Fair Legislative and Congressional Districts”; and

WHEREAS, passage of Issue 1 will replace the current politician-driven process of drawing legislative and congressional districts, aka voting districts, with a Citizens Redistricting Commission that will be required to create fair districts; districts which contain roughly equal numbers of people and which reflect the composition of population in the State of Ohio; and

WHEREAS, the drawing and re-drawing of voting districts is an essential feature of our American democracy; and

WHEREAS, “gerrymandering” is generally defined as the practice of dividing a geographic area into voting districts for the purpose of giving an unfair advantage to one political party in elections; and

WHEREAS, the practice of gerrymandering has become increasingly common in places where district lines are drawn by state legislatures that are controlled by one political party; and

WHEREAS, the goal of gerrymandering is to create “safe” voting districts where politicians essentially choose their voters to ensure they are re-elected; and

WHEREAS, gerrymandered districts have been shown to result in elections with predictable outcomes, unresponsive elected officials and disengaged voters; and

WHEREAS, according to the Brennan Center for Justice, the practice of gerrymandering has had detrimental effects on American democracy; and

WHEREAS, in 2015 and 2018, Ohioans overwhelmingly voted to reform the redistricting process but politicians in the Ohio legislature have remained in control of drawing new voting district lines, resulting in district maps that were ruled to be unconstitutional seven times by the Ohio Supreme Court in the period after the 2020 census; and

WHEREAS, politicians of all stripes, including both Democrats and Republicans, have demonstrated a tendency to produce gerrymandered districts when they are presented with the opportunity to control a state legislature; and

WHEREAS, passage of Issue 1 will (1) create a Citizens Redistricting Commission made up of 5 Republicans, 5 Democrats and 5 Independents who represent the different areas and

demographics of Ohio, (2) ban current and former politicians, political party officials, lobbyists and large political donors from serving on the Commission, (3) require fair and impartial districts by making it unconstitutional to draw maps that favor any political party or individual politician, (4) require the Commission to operate under an open and independent process, and (5) change the way our legislative and congressional districts are drawn to better reflect the will of Ohio voters; and

WHEREAS, Issue 1 is non-partisan; and

WHEREAS, Issue 1 has received bi-partisan support from many concerned citizens' groups including The Brennan Center for Justice, Common Cause Ohio, League of Women Voters Ohio and the Ohio NAACP, and

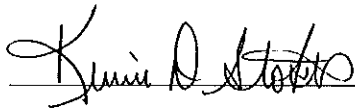
WHEREAS, Issue 1 is "political" only in the sense that it supports democratic practices and voting rights.

WHEREAS, the campaign for passage of Issue 1 is also known as "Citizens Not Politicians".

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY COUNCIL FOR THE VILLAGE OF YELLOW SPRINGS, OHIO THAT:

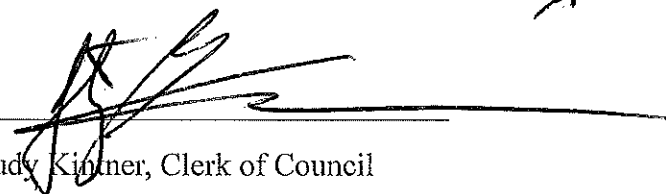
Section 1. Council hereby supports passage of Issue 1 in the forthcoming election on November 5, 2024 and urges citizens to vote YES on this proposed Constitutional Amendment.

Section 2. Council hereby endorses the Citizens Not Politicians campaign for the passage of Issue 1.



Kevin Stokes, President of Council

Passed: 10-7-2024

Attest: 

Judy Kinmer, Clerk of Council

ROLL CALL

Kevin Stokes __Y__ Brian Housh _Y_ Gavin DeVore Leonard __Y_
Carmen Brown __Y_ Trish Gustafson _Y__