

VOTE NO ON ISSUE 2

What others say about Issue 2:

Columbus Dispatch

Editorial

September 3, 2012

A step backward

Redistricting amendment would make it even harder to track map-rigging

Ohio's current system is bad, but California's experience shows that the "cure" is worse. In Ohio's current system, the people who are manipulating the process are known. And because they are elected officials, Ohio voters can hold them accountable by voting them out of office. But in California, the manipulation was surreptitious, exposed only by the dogged reporting of ProPublica, and voters have no way to hold anyone accountable for the outcome.

Cleveland Plain Dealer

Column by Brent Larkin

August 26, 2012

Voters First proposal on redistricting is a partisan con job

"If approved by voters, State Issue 2 would create a convoluted process by which a commission essentially created by Ohio Court of Appeals judges would draw new legislative and congressional boundaries after every U.S. census. Dragging judges into the process reeks of stupidity."

Columbus Dispatch

Editorial

August 12, 2012

Conflict of interest: Redistricting proposal asks judges to assume improper role in process

"Proponents of the Voters First proposal, whose backing comes overwhelmingly from labor and Democrats, will have a hard time making a case that the measure is even bipartisan, never mind nonpartisan."

Akron Beacon Journal

Editorial

August 10, 2012

Judges and politicians

"Ohio's judges are all elected, even running in partisan primaries. In other words, they are part of the political system. Giving them such a prominent role in redistricting hardly achieves what Voters First seeks — taking redistricting "out of the hands of politicians."

9/11/2012

Cleveland Plain Dealer

Editorial

August 5, 2012

Unions First: What was billed as a nonpartisan redistricting approach is revealed as a push by Democrats and organized labor

"But Voters First's veneer of nonpartisanship has been shredded. And to think that some of its most visible advocates are individuals and groups associated -- for years -- with calls for transparency in campaign finance. Letting themselves be used by the kind of political insiders they decry will make their high-minded talk harder to take seriously."

Coshocton Tribune

Editorial

August 26, 2012

Redistricting issue laden with baggage

"Among the serious questions that need to be answered, is one about the legality of the amendment. The Ohio State Bar Association recently questioned that legality, saying it puts judges in a position of conflict -- appointing members of the commission and developing the plan -- rather than ruling on the plan based on the merits of the law. There also are concerns that appointed members wouldn't have to comply with ethics laws and couldn't be removed from the commission."

Cleveland Plain Dealer

August 16, 2012

Appellate court judges say 'no thanks' to inclusion in redistricting reform proposal

"Ohio Court of Appeals Fifth District Judge Sheila Farmer, who is chief justice of the Ohio Court of Appeals Judges Association, said the proposal is rife with conflict for appellate court judges and erodes the integrity and non-political nature of the judiciary. 'We are certainly against it,' Farmer said in an interview this week."

Ohio State Bar Association

August 8, 2012

Nonpartisan OSBA Opposes Proposed Constitutional Amendment's Inappropriate Process

"It is the position of the Ohio State Bar Association that it is inappropriate for the judiciary to be involved in the political process that initiates and proposes political boundaries, and that the amendment should not be adopted."

Ohio Farm Bureau Federation

August 17, 2012

Ohio Farm Bureau Says Confusing and Complicated Issue 2 Plan Lacks Accountability

"The proposed process includes a confusing and complicated application and selection procedure that lacks accountability to voters. While Ohio Farm Bureau believes that a better and more transparent redistricting process is needed, the board feels strongly that Issue 2 does not meet the standards of good government."

Ohio Chamber of Commerce

August 22, 2012

Ohio Chamber Opposes State Issue 2 – Calls it Seriously Flawed

"State Issue 2 is seriously flawed and fails to reflect an accountable, bipartisan approach that Ohio voters can rely on to produce effective reform and fair legislative and congressional districts. We are very concerned that State Issue 2 would infringe on the first amendment rights of thousands of Ohioans by disqualifying them from serving on the proposed commission."

Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber

September 11, 2012

Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber: Issue 2 Removes Accountability to Voters

"If passed, Issue 2 would replace elected officials with an unelected, unaccountable, citizen commission with unlimited funds to redraw congressional and General Assembly district lines, while excluding some Ohioans from serving on the commission."

Associated Builders and Contractors of Ohio

August 31, 2012

ABC of Ohio Opposes State Issue 2 – New Commission Would Lack Accountability to the Voters.

"ABC of Ohio strenuously opposes Issue 2 because it removes elected officials, who are accountable to the voters, with unknown and unelected people to determine districts for elected representatives in Congress and the Ohio General Assembly."

Ohio Council of Retail Merchants

August 31, 2012

Retail Merchants Oppose Issue 2 as "Voter Theft Amendment"

"Issue 2 eliminates voter control over Ohio's redistricting process and gives it to a group of unaccountable bureaucrats. It's not political reform at all. It's really a voter theft amendment that takes away Ohio voters' rights."

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