



Delaware County Commissioners

Gary Merrell
Barbara Lewis
Jeff Benton

County Administrator
Tim Hansley

Clerk to the Commissioners
Jennifer Walraven

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Teri Morgan
Communications Manager
614/323-3219
October 5, 2015

The Delaware County Board of Commissioners voted today to oppose State Issue 3 which, if passed, would grant a monopoly for the commercial production and sale of marijuana for recreational and medicinal purposes.

The issue on this November's election ballot places in the Ohio Constitution a billion-dollar marijuana monopoly for a small group of wealthy investors, gives them exclusive rights to commercial marijuana profits in Ohio, and insulates them from any business competition or act of the legislature, according to the resolution passed in Commissioner session.

Because of the importance of this opposition vote, the Commissioners each took turns reading the resolution. Commission President Gary Merrell said, "I met with Responsible Ohio and there is very little that is responsible about this constitutional amendment, including the fact that it should at the least be a legislative decision, not a change to the Ohio Constitution."

"Issue 3 is not supported by the majority of statewide agencies or large newspaper groups because of the monopoly it creates; the damage it could do to businesses with impaired workers; and the risk to our children by legalizing marijuana-infused products like candy and cookies. It is the worst amendment that could ever be added to our state constitution," Commissioner Barb Lewis stated.

--more--

Delaware County Commissioners, 101 North Sandusky Street, P.O. Box 8006 Delaware, Ohio 43015

(740) 833-2100

(740) 548-7313

FAX: (740) 833-2099

2-2-2

“I can’t reinforce the point that the entire industry does not belong in the Constitution for so many reasons. We have already heard from Sheriff Martin and many others that the amendment, if passed, puts state regulations in conflict with federal regulations thus preventing normal banking procedures and we are talking about huge amounts of cash,” said Commissioner Jeff Benton.

Commissioner Jeff Benton also stated that as a member of the Ohio Society of Certified Public Accountants, he agrees with their analysis that the proposed constitutional amendment contains ambiguous language that could shield wealthy investors and retail marijuana shop owners from an obligation to pay the state income tax.

Sheriff Martin commended the Commissioners for their action and emphatically stated that the Delaware County Sheriff’s Office stood with them. The Sheriff explained that even with legalized amounts of marijuana, problems still exist. Kyle Rohrer, First Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, also gave support to the resolution by addressing the importance of realizing this is not a constitutional issue, but rather a legislative one.

According to the Commissioners and Sue Ware, Delaware County Job and Family Services, State Issue 3 poses severe public safety and workforce concerns and will burden social service and drug treatment programs. “Marijuana use, as well as any drug use, affects good parenting decisions for our families. It also lends itself to impaired decisions by workers. Our JFS workers drive children in county cars and make decisions regarding their welfare—we don’t want them impaired doing so.”

For more information, please find us on Facebook or visit our Web site at www.co.delaware.oh.us.

###