

Ohio Issue 1, Drug and Criminal Justice Policies Initiative (2018)

What would Issue 1 change about drug and criminal justice policies in Ohio?

Issue 1, according to the measure's text, was designed to reduce the number of people in state prisons for low-level, nonviolent crimes, such as drug possession and non-criminal probation violations. The initiative would make the possession, obtainment, and use of drugs no more than a misdemeanor, with sentences not exceeding probation for a first or second offense. Issue 1 would not change the classification of fourth- or fifth-degree drug-related felonies, such as the sale, distribution, or trafficking of drugs. The initiative would also allow individuals serving convictions higher than a misdemeanor for possession, obtainment, and use of drugs to petition the court for re-sentencing. Courts would be prohibited from ordering that persons on probation for felonies be sent to prison for non-criminal probation violations. The ballot initiative would require the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (DRC) to grant an inmate with sentence credits of 0.5 days for each day that the person participated in rehabilitative, work, or educational programs. The ballot initiative would require that state funds saved due to a reduction of inmates, resulting from the initiative's implementation, be spent on substance abuse treatment programs, crime victim programs, probation programs, graduated responses programs, and rehabilitation programs.[1]

A "yes" vote supports this constitutional amendment to:

- make offenses related to drug possession and use no more than misdemeanors;
- prohibit courts from ordering persons on probation for felonies be sent to prison for non-criminal probation violations;
- create a sentence credits program for inmates' participation in rehabilitative, work, or educational programs; and
- require the state to spend savings due to a reduction of inmates, resulting from Issue 1, on drug treatment, crime victim, and rehabilitation programs.

A "no" vote opposes this constitutional amendment to:

- make offenses related to drug possession and use no more than misdemeanors;
- prohibit courts from ordering persons on probation for felonies be sent to prison for non-criminal probation violations;
- create a sentence credits program for inmates' participation in rehabilitative, work, or educational programs; and
- require the state to spend savings due to a reduction of inmates, resulting from Issue 1, on drug treatment, crime victim, and rehabilitation programs.

All footnotes cited can be found

[https://ballotpedia.org/Ohio_Issue_1,_Drug_and_Criminal_Justice_Policies_Initiative_\(2018\)](https://ballotpedia.org/Ohio_Issue_1,_Drug_and_Criminal_Justice_Policies_Initiative_(2018))

Who is behind the campaigns surrounding the ballot initiative?

Note: The campaign finance information on this page is according to the most recent scheduled reports, which covered through July 31, 2018. The deadline for the next scheduled reports is October 25, 2018.

The Ohio Safe and Healthy Communities Campaign is leading the campaign in support of Ohio Issue 1. The campaign received \$4.86 million, including \$1.50 million from the Open Society Policy Center, \$1.00 million from the Chan Zuckerberg Advocacy, and \$1.00 million from the Open Philanthropy Project Action Fund. There was no political action committee registered to oppose Issue 1.

Supporters

Officials

Richard Cordray (D), 2018 candidate for governor[3]

Travis Irvine (Libertarian), 2018 candidate for governor[2]

Organizations

Ohio Organizing Collaborative[8]

Ohio Justice & Policy Center[9]

Ohio Transformation Fund[9]

Alliance for Safety and Justice[9]

Open Society Policy Center[10]

Opponents

Officials

Attorney General Mike DeWine (R), 2018 candidate for governor[2]

Ohio Supreme Court Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor (R)[13]

Sen. Rob McColley (R-1)[14]

Former officials

Former Ohio Supreme Court Justice Paul Pfeifer (R)[15]

Organizations

Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Association[16]

Ohio Common Pleas Judges Association[16]

Ohio Association of Juvenile and Family Court Judges[16]

Association of Municipal and County Court Judges of Ohio[16]

Ohio State Bar Association[16]

Buckeye State Sheriffs Association[16]

Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police[16]

Ohio Patrolmen's Benevolent Association[16]

Ohio Crime Victim Justice Center[16]

County Auditors Association of Ohio[16]

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CorJus[16]

Support

The contribution and expenditure totals for the committee in support of the initiative were as follows:^[18]

Committees in support of Ohio Issue 1			
Supporting committees	Cash contributions	In-kind services	Cash expenditures
Ohio Safe and Healthy Communities Campaign	\$4,103,976.57	\$754,919.61	\$3,759,363.14
Total	\$4,103,976.57	\$754,919.61	\$3,759,363.14

Donors

The following were the top five donors who contributed to the support committee:^[18]

Donor	Cash	In-kind	Total
Open Society Policy Center	\$1,000,000.00	\$500,000.00	\$1,500,000.00
Chan Zuckerberg Advocacy	\$1,000,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,000,000.00
Open Philanthropy Project Action Fund	\$1,000,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,000,000.00
Tides Advocacy	\$500,000.00	\$104,141.58	\$604,141.58
Black Fork Strategies, LLC	\$300,000.00	\$0.00	\$300,000.00

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