

# HJR6 (2022)

## The Attack on Citizen-Led Ballot Initiatives



Since 1912, Ohioans have used citizen-led ballot initiatives to have a direct say in our government, **but now, with House Joint Resolution 6 (HJR6) State Rep. Brian Stewart and Secretary of State LaRose are trying to make the process much harder.**

On December 1, a substitute bill was adopted that states **any** amendment to the Ohio Constitution would require a 60% approval, whether originated from the Ohio General Assembly or citizen-initiated. Despite this change, HJR 6 is still an unfair, unpopular, cynical attack on our democracy.

### Unfair

Ohio citizens must already secure hundreds of thousands of verified signatures in at least half of Ohio's 88 counties to put a ballot measure before the voters. This proposed resolution would make it almost impossible for anyone except big money special interests to successfully pass a ballot initiative in Ohio. HJR 6 rigs the process against everyday Ohioans.

### Unpopular

Proposals like this are extremely unpopular, especially in conservative states. A similar proposal was handily defeated in Arkansas this month and the voters of South Dakota repudiated one in June 2022. If HJR 6 passes, only Ohio and Florida would require 60% support for any citizen-led ballot measure to become law.

### Undemocratic

HJR 6 isn't about any one issue. This proposal is an attack on all Ohioans' ability to pass citizen-initiated ballot measures. Ohioans only use the citizen initiative if the state legislature is not accountable to the voters—and we know the gerrymandered maps pushed through by the Ohio Redistricting Commission mean our Ohio Representatives and Senators are insulated from accountability and any need for responsive law making. Making it harder for citizen-led ballot initiatives to pass is their latest attempt to silence Ohioans.

Secretary LaRose had the audacity to label this proposal a “good government reform,” when in fact, it is simply a power grab. **HJR6 will face diverse and robust opposition from voters and organizations across the state.**

# Results of Proposed Amendments to the Ohio Constitution from 1990 to 2022

**GA:** Measures proposed by the Ohio General Assembly • **CI:** Measures proposed through citizen initiatives

Date	Source	Subject	Result	Vote %
11/6/1990	GA	Public Financial Support for Housing	Approved	52.90%
11/6/1990	GA	Extend Homestead Exemption to Surviving Spouses	Approved	88.80%
11/6/1990	CI	Licensed Casino Gambling	Failed	37.70%
11/3/1992	CI	Legislative Term Limits	Approved	68.40%
11/3/1992	CI	Executive Term Limits	Approved	69.10%
11/3/1992	CI	US House and Senate Term Limits	Approved	66.20%
11/2/1993	GA	Bond Issue	Approved	60.50%
11/8/1994	GA	Protect Rights of Crime Victims	Approved	77.60%
11/8/1994	GA	Direct Appeal to SCO in Death Penalty Cases	Approved	70.10%
11/8/1994	GA	Protect Viability of Prepaid Tuition Program	Approved	60.40%
11/8/1994	CI	Repeal Tax on Soft Drinks	Approved	66.40%
11/7/1995	GA	Limit Power of Gov. to Commute Sentences	Approved	70.90%
11/7/1995	GA	Public Works Bonds	Approved	61.90%
11/5/1996	CI	Allow River Boat Casino Gambling	Failed	38.10%
11/4/1997	GA	Denial of Bail to Persons Charged with Certain Felonies	Approved	72.90%
5/5/1998	GA	School Facilities Bonds	Failed	39.30%
11/2/1999	GA	School Facilities Bonds	Approved	60.80%
11/7/2000	GA	Environmental Conservation Bonds	Approved	57.40%
11/5/2002	CI	Treatment In Lieu of Incarceration for Certain Drug Offenses	Failed	33.10%
11/4/2003	GA	Science/Technology Bonds	Failed	49.20%
11/2/2004	CI	Gay Marriage Ban	Approved	61.70%
11/8/2005	GA	Economic Development	Approved	54.10%
11/8/2005	CI	Expand Early Voting to 35 Days Prior to Election Day	Failed	36.60%
11/8/2005	CI	Campaign Finance	Failed	33.10%
11/8/2005	CI	Redistricting	Failed	30.30%
11/8/2005	CI	Election Administration Reform	Failed	29.90%

Date	Source	Subject	Result	Vote %
11/7/2006	CI	Minimum Wage Increase	Approved	56.60%
11/7/2006	CI	Limited Gambling and Proceed Distribution	Failed	35.80%
11/4/2008	GA	Change Deadlines for Ballot Issue Filings	Approved	68.60%
11/4/2008	GA	Clear Ohio Bonds	Approved	69.10%
11/4/2008	GA	Protect Private Property Rights in Groundwater etc.	Approved	71.90%
11/4/2008	CI	Casino Construction in Wilmington	Failed	37.10%
11/3/2009	GA	Veterans Bond	Approved	72.20%
11/3/2009	GA	Create Ohio Livestock Care Standards Board	Approved	63.70%
11/3/2009	CI	Casinos in Toledo, Cleveland, Columbus, Cincinnati	Approved	52.90%
5/4/2010	GA	Third Frontier Bonds	Approved	61.70%
5/4/2010	GA	Change Location of Columbus Casino	Approved	68.30%
11/8/2011	GA	Increase Age Limit for Judicial Office	Failed	37.90%
11/8/2011	CI	Freedom to Choose Healthcare	Approved	65.50%
11/6/2012	CI	Redistricting	Failed	36.80%
5/6/2014	GA	Bonds	Approved	65.10%
11/3/2015	CI	Redistricting	Approved	71.40%
11/3/2015	GA	Restrict Ballot Measures from Monopolies	Approved	51.50%
11/3/2015	CI	Marijuana Legalization	Failed	35.90%
11/7/2017	CI	Marcy's Law	Approved	82.50%
5/6/2018	CI	Redistricting	Approved	74.80%
11/6/2018	CI	Reduce Penalties for Certain Drug Related Offenses	Failed	36.90%
11/8/2022	GA	Make Bail Changes	Approved	77.80%
11/8/2022	GA	Voter Qualifications	Approved	77.20%

Source: <https://guides.law.csuohio.edu/c.php?g=190570&p=1258419#x1990>