



# CASE DEMOCRATS

CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY

## Introduces The 2006 Ohio Statewide Issues

Please note: As of October 25, 2006, **no votes cast for Issue 1 will be counted** according to the Ohio Supreme Court, as upheld through the Ohio Secretary of State.

### Issue 2 – Ohio Fair Minimum Wage Amendment

If passed by a majority vote, Issue 2 will **raise the state minimum wage from \$5.15 to \$6.85 per hour**, and would index the wage rate to inflation so that it is adjusted annually. There are some exceptions for small businesses, family members, employees under 16, and some who receive tips or who have disabilities. **Currently, people earning the minimum wage are living below the poverty line.** Also, **research shows that there is no real negative impact on employment.** States with higher minimum wages actually tend to perform better economically. This amendment however **would tie adjustments to the CPI**, and increased labor costs may be passed on to consumers in the form of increased prices.

### Issue 3 – Learn and Earn Amendment

Issue 3 would **allow** up to 3,500 **slot machines** at 7 race tracks and 2 non-racing locations **in downtown Cleveland**, totaling over 30,000 slot machines. **54%** of revenues **would go to the gambling operators**, who would be **exempt from all Ohio taxes.** **For the first 12 years, 30%** of the annual gross revenues would **go towards college scholarships**, available **only to the top 5%** of graduating Ohio students. **8%** would go **towards local governments** for economic development. The last 8% would be used for additional gambling services (1% of which would be for addiction services). There is **no specification towards how many scholarships will be available, how much each scholarship will be, or if there will be scholarships available after the first 12 years.**

### Issue 4 – Smoke Less Ohio Amendment

Issue 4 would allow for a **constitutional amendment** that would **allow smoking in separate sections** in restaurants, bars, bingo halls, bowling alleys, hotels, nursing homes, race tracks, tobacco stores, private residences, and not public facilities. In any enclosed public area not specified above, smoking would be prohibited. This amendment would **overturn 21 current public smoking prohibitions** in areas throughout Ohio, actually **increasing the amount of permissible smoking** in these places. It would also **prevent local governments from passing any smoking prohibitions** beyond what is permissible in this amendment. Issue 4 is **endorsed by RJ Reynolds Tobacco Company.**

### Issue 5 – Smoke Free Workplace Act

Issue 5 would **approve a law**, not an amendment, **that would prohibit smoking in public enclosed areas of employment.** This would exempt private residences, family businesses, tobacco stores, and some hotel rooms, private clubs, patios, and smoking areas for residents of nursing homes. This issue is **endorsed by the American Cancer Society**, the American College of Surgeons, Ohio Asthma Coalition, Ohio Dental

Association, Ohio Education Association, Ohio Hospital Association, Ohio Nurses Association, **CWRU's School of Law Student Bar Association and CWRU's Family Medicine Research Division.**

**IF one would want to reduce public smoking** in Ohio, it has been argued that **it is best to vote AGAINST issue 4 and FOR issue 5**, because as a law issue 5 could be amended and changed. Furthermore, it restricts public smoking in enclosed places more than the Smoke Less Ohio Amendment. **To keep smoking restrictions as they currently are**, it is best to **vote against BOTH issue 4 and issue 5.**

### **Cuyahoga County Ballot Issues**

#### **Issue 18 – Protect our Arts & Culture**

Issue 18 would not be a property tax, but **would raise the cigarette tax to 30 cents per pack (1.5 cents per cigarette) to fund the arts & culture organizations** of Cuyahoga County. This would last for 10 years, at which time it could be renewed via ballot.

**University Circle Institutions would greatly benefit from the passage of issue 18.** It is currently endorsed by the Cleveland Plain Dealer, Cleveland's AFL-CIO, and many Cleveland Councilmen.

#### **Issue 19 – Health and Human Services**

Issue 19 would **replace part of an existing levy and constitute a tax** to benefit Cuyahoga County to **supplement the general fund appropriations for Health and Human Services** that would run for four years.

Don't forget to **vote at the polls on November 7, 2006.** Any eligible voter **can vote prior to Election Day at their registered County Board of Elections** office in Ohio. **Be sure to take Identification** (ex. Driver's license, bank statement, utility bill, paycheck) to your polling place if you do vote in person.

Case Democrats cannot and does not endorse any issues. However, **we wish to encourage all members of the Case community to become educated voters, making their own informed decisions.**

To find out more about Case Democrats, visit <http://home.case.edu/democrats>.