

Yes on Issue 2

An Ohio success story has been the Clean Ohio program. Voters must continue this catalyst in improving our quality of life

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In this election year, the focus has returned to the economy. Ohio voters will evaluate many candidates and issues, making decisions with an eye on the turmoil on Wall Street and the belt-tightening in their own lives. In casting their ballot, they should not hesitate on state Issue 2, to continue the essential and highly successful Clean Ohio program.

We strongly recommend a "yes" vote on Issue 2 on Nov. 4.

Since 2001, Clean Ohio has been a catalyst for change in the state's economy. By approving a constitutional amendment to authorize the issuance of \$400 million in additional bonds, voters will support a program with a proven record of attracting investment dollars, creating jobs and improving the quality of life for all Ohioans. Put another way, Clean Ohio serves as economic stimulus.

More, the bonds would be backed by general fund revenues. Issue 2 would not increase taxes.

Half of the bonds would be targeted for cleaning up abandoned and polluted industrial sites, the urban brownfields. The \$200 million spent so far has leveraged some \$2.6 billion in public and private investment, creating 15,000 permanent jobs and 100,000 short-term construction jobs.

Redevelopment in core cities reduces sprawl, easing overall government costs because infrastructure such as water lines and sewer lines are already in place. In Akron, for example, the city received \$2.8 million to clean up the site for Dave's Supermarket on Exchange Street.

The other part of the Clean Ohio program provides grants for expanded greenspace. The preservation of farmland and natural areas and the expansion of parks and recreational facilities add in significant ways to the quality of life enjoyed in all parts of the state. Preservation of wild areas improves water quality and provides the habitat necessary to support fish and wildlife. In addition, the improvement of parks and trails adds to the state's ability to attract and retain talented workers whose knowledge is needed to move the state economy forward.

This fund has helped transform both urban and rural landscapes. Akron has received \$1.8 million to help extend the Ohio & Erie Towpath Trail into downtown Akron. In all, Summit County has received \$19 million in Clean Ohio funds.

Whether it is a revitalized urban landscape, with new jobs and attractive parks and trails, or a rural landscape free from sprawl and providing a healthier environment, the Clean Ohio program has given Ohioans a big bang for their bucks.

The bottom line is, Ohioans can't afford not to continue Clean Ohio.

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