



Ohio Ballot Issue May 2018

There is one statewide issue on the May 8, 2018 ballot. **Issue 1** is a constitutional amendment creating a bipartisan, public process for drawing Ohio **congressional** Districts. A somewhat similar amendment addressing redistricting for **Ohio legislative districts** passed in 2015.

As in 2015, the Catholic Conference of Ohio has taken a supportive position on this issue. We offer these reflections as an aid to one's discernment process.

Prudential Discernment

This issue requires prudential discernment. *"Prudence shapes and informs our ability to deliberate over available alternatives, to determine what is most fitting to a specific context, and to act decisively..."*

"...Catholics may choose different ways to respond to compelling social problems, but we cannot differ on our moral obligation to help build a more just and peaceful world through morally acceptable means, so that the weak and vulnerable are protected and human rights and dignity are defended."

Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship #20, USCCB, 2015

Reflection Questions

1. Will passage of an issue promote the value and dignity of the human person and advance the common good of persons in the state, especially the poor and vulnerable?
2. Is the issue needed?
3. Is the issue well-conceived and clearly stated?
4. Is this an issue that belongs in Ohio's Constitution?
5. Does the Issue appear to have a good chance of being implemented and enforced?
6. Are the proponents and opponents of the issue being fair, clear, and transparent in their advocacy around the issue?

State Issue 1

Creates a bipartisan, public process for drawing Congressional districts

The proposed Constitutional Amendment would:

- End the partisan process for drawing congressional districts and replace it with a process with the goals of promoting bipartisanship, keeping local communities together, and having district boundaries that are more compact.
- Ensure a transparent process by requiring public hearings and allowing public submission of proposed plans.
- Require the General Assembly or the Ohio Redistricting Commission to adopt new congressional districts by a bipartisan vote for the plan to be effective for the full 10-year period.
- Require that if a plan is adopted by the General Assembly without significant bipartisan support, it cannot be effective for the entire 10-year period and must comply with explicit anti-gerrymandering requirements.

Catholic Conference of Ohio Position

We appreciate that this issue was well debated in the Ohio General Assembly, and that it was placed on the ballot with strong bipartisan support.

Legislative districts should be fairly established, facilitate active citizen participation, assure effective accountability and accessibility to both voters and elected officials, and ensure the common good of all in society. Issue 1 provides a prudentially viable process for achieving these goals.

The Catholic Bishops of Ohio support passage of Issue 1.



The Catholic Conference of Ohio is the official representative of the Catholic Church in public matters affecting the Church and the general welfare of the citizens of Ohio.

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