

1 RESOLUTION NO. 2023-215

First Reading Passage Requested

2 (Executive Shapiro)

3 SPONSOR Executive Shapiro, Ms. Darrow, Ms. Walters, Ms. Sims, Ms. Wiedie Higham,
4 Mr. Schmidt, Ms. Dickinson, Mr. Wilhite, Mr. Donofrio

5 DATE June 26, 2023 COMMITTEE Committee of the Whole

6

7 **A Resolution opposing Ohio Issue 1, which would amend the Ohio Constitution to allow**
8 **special interest groups and politicians to more easily ignore the will of the people by creating**
9 **a process whereby just 1/10th of 1 percent of the registered voters in Ohio can block voter led**
10 **constitutional amendment from reaching the ballot and which further reduces the value of**
11 **a voter’s “yes” vote on a constitutional amendment to be worth less than a voter’s “no” vote**
12 **and urging Summit County voters to not to give up their right to have a government in Ohio**
13 **that is for the people and by the people and to vote “NO” on Ohio Issue 1 at the August 8,**
14 **2023 special election, for the Executive and Council, and declaring an emergency.**

15

16 WHEREAS, On the heels of government corruption, the 1912 Ohio Constitutional
17 Convention approved sending the process for voter-initiated constitutional amendments to the
18 ballot and in September of 1912, Ohio voters voted to give themselves the right to approve
19 constitutional **amendments**, requiring a simple 50% plus 1 majority; and

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21 WHEREAS, In December 2022, the Ohio General Assembly approved H.B. 458 which
22 banned August special elections, with the exception of those for a political subdivision or a school
23 district who is in a fiscal state of emergency; and

24

25 WHEREAS, the Ohio General Assembly is now going to spend \$20 million of taxpayer
26 money to hold an August special election which seeks to change a constitutional provision
27 approved by voters 110 years ago, rather than wait until the already scheduled and already funded
28 November 7th 2023 general election; and

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30 WHEREAS, Issue 1 would end the 110 year practice of one person one vote for deciding
31 constitutional amendments by making “no” votes carry more weight than “yes” votes; and

32

33 WHEREAS, Issue 1 would further make it significantly easier for elected officials and
34 special interest groups to ignore the will of the people by requiring an equal percentage of
35 signatures from all 88 counties to place a voter initiated amendment on the ballot thereby making
36 a small number of signatures in one of Ohio’s small counties carry the same weight in approving
37 amendments as a large number in the large counties and allowing that just 1/10th of 1 percent of
38 the registered voters in Ohio can block an amendment from ever getting to the ballot; and

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40 WHEREAS, Ohioans have used discretion in approving constitutional amendments placed
41 on the ballot, with just 71 citizen-initiated amendments on the ballot since 1913 and only
42 approximately 1/4th of them being approved; and

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44 WHEREAS, this Council finds and determines, after reviewing all pertinent information,
45 that it is necessary and in the best interest of the County to oppose the passage Ohio Issue 1 and to
46 urge Summit County voters not to give up their right to have a government in Ohio that is for the
47 people and by the people and to vote “NO” on Ohio Issue 1.

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49 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the County of Summit, State
50 of Ohio, that:

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2 PAGE TWO

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4 SECTION 1

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6 This Council opposes Ohio Issue 1 and urges Summit County voters to vote "NO" on Ohio
7 Issue 1 at the August 8, 2023 special election.

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9 SECTION 2

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11 The Clerk of Council is hereby authorized and directed to forward a copy of this Resolution
12 to the Ohio Governor and Lieutenant Governor, the Ohio Secretary of State, the Ohio Speaker of
13 the House, the Ohio Senate President, and the Summit County delegation of the Ohio General
14 Assembly.

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17 SECTION 3

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19 This Resolution is hereby declared an emergency in the interest of the health, safety and
20 welfare of the residents of the County of Summit and for the further reason to immediately oppose
21 Ohio Issue 1 and urge Summit County voters to vote "NO" on Ohio Issue 1 at the August 8, 2023
22 special election.

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24 SECTION 4

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26 Provided this Resolution receives the affirmative vote of eight members, it shall take effect
27 immediately upon its adoption and approval by the Executive; otherwise, it shall take effect and
28 be in force at the earliest time provided by law.

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30 SECTION 5

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32 It is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating
33 to the adoption of this Resolution were adopted in an open meeting of this Council, and that all
34 deliberations of this Council and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action, were
35 in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements, including Section 121.22
36 of the Ohio Revised Code.

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38 INTRODUCED June 26, 2023

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40 ADOPTED June 26, 2023

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42 DocuSigned by:
43 *hauwenmaish*
44 F8D2DB132BE041B...
45 CLERK OF COUNCIL

42 DocuSigned by:
43 *Veronica R Sim*
44 C65A948FE4BA42A...
45 PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

46

46 APPROVED June 26, 2023

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48 DocuSigned by:
49 *Gene Shapiro*
50 CBD33E40D287473...
51 EXECUTIVE

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52 ENACTED EFFECTIVE June 27, 2023