



Working together we can build a great community

Earlier this year a handful of current and former elected city officials worked to create a change to the city Charter that is bad for the city. On May 8th, you can vote on this proposed amendment. Here's why the majority of council members and other community leaders are urging you to **Vote NO on 9:**

- ✓ The proposed amendment would tie the hands of your city leaders with regard to annexation and conforming of the boundaries. This is irresponsible and will quite possibly cost you money down the road.
- ✗ This amendment is bad policy. Not being able to negotiate with other governments would likely exclude Pickerington from some economic development opportunities in the future. The city could lose out on tax revenues from big corporations and will relv on YOU to pay the bills.
- ✓ The amendment is unnecessary as there is no agreement in place that would give up the city's rights to annex land or conform the boundaries.
- ✓ This amendment is unnecessary because the citizens have the right to overturn any decision Council makes through the referendum process.
- ✓ This amendment will make any future annexations more expensive. Pickerington's law director said that if this amendment passes that the city (YOU) "will have to pay the Township reparations for the removal of the property." In other words: It will cost you more.
- ✓ Annexing residential property and conforming the boundaries are really bad ideas that would not only cost you more in taxes: it would tear apart our Fire Department and our community. We are ONE community. Defeating this amendment preserves that.



Vote NO on issue 9! Preserve our community.

Paid for by "Citizens for Lower Taxes, Charles Elsea Treasurer
338 Linden Circle, Pickerington, OH 43147



Dear Citizens of Pickerington,

This past Thursday, four members of Council voted not to mail information about **Issue 9** to the citizens of Pickerington. We, the undersigned, feel that this issue is so important that you need the facts before you vote.

Many of us on your City Council recognize that there is a significant imbalance in our tax base in that the **residents pay a much higher proportion of the taxes than businesses do.** To fix that, Pickerington needs to bring commercial development into our city. Unfortunately, most of the land available to be developed in our city is good primarily for retail establishments, and that type of development will not pay the bills in the long run.

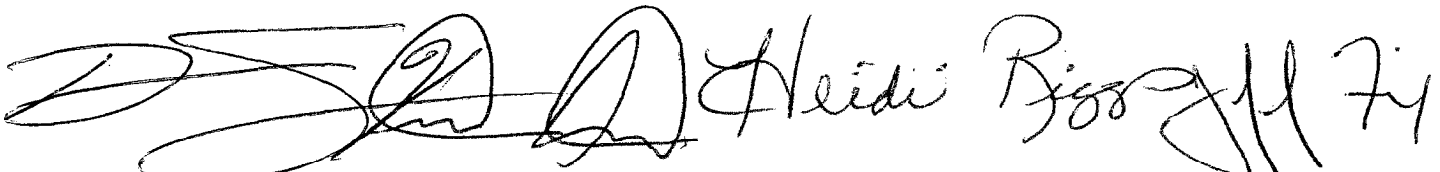
Most of the viable lands for significant commercial development (light industrial and office) lie in the Township. The Township is willing to partner with Pickerington and others to form a Joint Economic Development District (JEDD) along Rt. 33. In fact, **Pickerington has the opportunity to participate in a number of JEDDs along the Rt. 33 corridor from the Franklin County line all the way to the Lancaster city limits.** A recently passed Memorandum of Understanding sets this in motion. If Pickerington is able to participate in this series of JEDDs, we will see **millions of dollars in commercial taxes** flow into the city over the course of time. Keep in mind that all of this would come from land that is well outside our city borders and that we have no access to through annexation.

This money would be used to pay down our significant debt, pave and widen our city streets, put more police officers on those streets and in your neighborhoods, enhance our parks, and possibly, eventually, allow us to build the community recreation center that so many people are asking for.

The problem is that **if Issue 9 passes, Pickerington will not be able to participate in these JEDDs.** You see, state law says that cities are prohibited from annexing lands that are included in JEDDs for a period of three years, and every JEDD that we've been able to find in the State of Ohio includes language that precludes the cities participating from annexing the land in the JEDD for the term of the JEDD (usually 50 years). If Issue 9 passes, the city will not have the ability to agree not to annex these lands and will be removed from the JEDD process. **This mistake would cost the city millions of dollars over time.**

We understand that the citizens have a desire to "preserve your rights." As a group we are committed to not give up the rights to annex land or conform the boundaries except in the case of significant economic development on lands that we do not have the ability to annex anyway. Preserving your rights is important. Securing the economic future of our community is also important. We believe that both will be accomplished if you vote to defeat Issue 9.

Please vote on May 8th. And please vote NO on Issue 9.



David Shaver
Mayor

Keith Smith
Council President

Heidi Riggs
Council Member

Jeff Fix
Council Member