

Issue 1 Opposition Talking Points

CASH BAIL CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT



Issue 1 requires courts to consider “public safety” when setting bail. Courts already do this by setting limits on the person’s behavior or holding potentially dangerous individuals in jail without bail.

Don’t be fooled: The true goal of Issue 1 is to allow courts to set cash bail in amounts individuals cannot pay.

Forcing people to pay for pretrial release from jail benefits the rich, who can pay, and hurts people who do not have money.

Money is not morality. Just because a person is rich, and can afford a high cash bail, does not make them a good person; just as it does not make someone a bad person if they do not have the money to pay a high cash bail.



Excessive bail is unconstitutional under the U.S. Constitution. Even if Issue 1 passes, it is still unconstitutional to set cash bail just to keep the individual in jail. Passing Issue 1 will result in more litigation and delayed justice for defendants and victims.



Public safety is not achieved by setting high cash bail hoping the person cannot pay it, nor is it a shortcut for public safety. Public safety is achieved by addressing the specific case and the specific person, imposing conditions relevant to that person and that case, and/or holding potentially dangerous individuals in jail without bail.

People are innocent until they are proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt. They should not have to wait in jail just because they cannot afford cash bail.

People presumed innocent should be able to keep their jobs and stay with their families in most cases; it should not depend on how much money they have in the bank.



Issue 1 pushes a false sense of security. It will inevitably lead to rich individuals being released and poor people sitting in jails.

Dangerous people with money will pay for their release.



Ohioans deserve jobs—not jails.