



**County
Commissioners
Association of Ohio**

Serving Ohio Counties Since 1880

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COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION OF OHIO ENDORSES STATE ISSUE 2

The County Commissioners Association of Ohio (CCAO) Board of Trustees voted to endorse the proposed constitutional amendment State Issue 2 which would change the location of the Columbus casino facility as authorized by a statewide vote at the November, 2009 General Election. State Issue 2 will be up for statewide voter approval at the Primary Election to be held on May 4. CCAO endorses local leaders having control of economic development and working with the developers to best suit their community needs.

Franklin County Commissioner and CCAO President Paula Brooks stated, "This is not about gambling. This is about making sure that local communities decide these matters. Our top priority now, needs to be working together to get shovels in the ground and help our middle class families get back to work."

"Supporting Issue 2 is easy for me. If the citizens of our county were faced with trying to constructively manage the location of a casino in our community, I would hope that the rest of the state would be there to stand with us. We need to support the citizens of Columbus in their effort to manage their own community - it is an issue of fairness and local control," commented Tim W. Brown, Wood County Commissioner.

State Issue 2 is a very simple amendment to Section 6 of Article XV of the Ohio Constitution that would authorize only a change in the location of a previously-authorized casino in Columbus. Passage of State Issue 2 will have no impact on the casino projects authorized in Cincinnati, Cleveland and Toledo.

The proposed amendment would change the location of the Columbus area casino authorized by statewide vote at the November, 2009 General Election from the area known as "The Arena District" to the site of a former General Motors/Delphi Corporation manufacturing plant located on the West Side. The proposed casino site would be re-located to West Broad Street near Georgesville and Phillipi Roads at a location that has been vacant since 2007. The planned \$400 million investment by casino developer Penn National Gaming would be located closer to better highway access near I-70 and I-270. Relocating the casino would breathe new life into an area of vacant buildings, overgrown grasses and littered properties.

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The location for the Columbus casino met community opposition. Following discussions with neighborhood, civic, business and government leaders, Penn National Gaming agreed to move the casino to a site that met approval of the surrounding community and where it would spur economic revitalization.

Lorain County Commissioner Ted Kalo commented, "Passing State Issue 2 fixes the problem of the casino location in Columbus/Franklin County. I believe that changing the casino location would give officials local control and the ability to place the casino in an area that needs revitalization and renewal."

Olen Jackson, Morrow County Commissioner, stated, "The casino gambling issue did not pass in Morrow or Franklin counties, but the majority of Ohioans voted for it. Now that gambling is legalized in Ohio, we need to make it work for those counties involved with the actual development and implementation. I support Issue 2 to help Columbus and Franklin County work with the casino developer to enhance economic development on the West Side of Columbus."

The County Commissioners' Association of Ohio was established in 1880 to provide educational opportunities, legislative representation, and technical assistance to county commissioners throughout Ohio.

