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August 1, 2025

VIA ELECTRONIC DELIVERY
(to Julie.Pfeiffer@ohioago.gov)

The Honorable Dave Yost
Ohio Attorney General
Attn: Julie M. Pfeiffer, Esq.
Section Chief, Constitutional Offices
30 E. Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Re: The Ohio Right to Marry Amendment (Resubmission)

Dear Attorney General Yost:

On July 3, 2025, you certified the title and summary of a proposed constitutional amendment known as the Ohio Equal Rights Amendment and then forwarded the proposed amendment to the Ohio Ballot Board for their review pursuant to R.C. 3505.062(A). On July 9, 2025, the Ballot Board met and determined that the proposed initiative petition contained more than one proposed constitutional amendment. The Ballot Board certified their decision to you on the same day.

Therefore, on behalf of my clients, the Ohio Equal Rights Amendment committee, and petition committee members Elizabeth Schmidt, Lis Regula, Joshua Kayes, Antony Fair, and Ian Neinast, I hereby resubmit the title and summary of the second of two individual petitions arising from the Ballot Board's division of the original initiative petition, now titled the Ohio Right to Marry Amendment, for your review of the title and summary as required pursuant to R.C. 3519.01(A) and R.C. 3505.062(A).

Please contact me at 614-263-7000 or shauff@electionlawgroup.com if you have any questions. Thank you.

Very truly yours,



Stacey N. Hauff

Encls.

County: _____

Number: _____

INITIATIVE PETITION

To the Attorney General of Ohio: Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code § 3519.01(A), the undersigned electors of the State of Ohio, numbering in excess of one thousand, hereby submit to you the full text of a proposed Amendment to the Ohio Constitution and a title and summary of the same.

TITLE

The Ohio Right to Marry Amendment

SUMMARY

The proposed amendment would repeal existing language in Article XV, Section 11 of the Ohio Constitution that defines a union between one man and one woman as the only form of marriage valid in or recognized by the state and its political subdivisions and prohibits the state and its political subdivisions from creating or recognizing a legal status of unmarried individuals that intends to approximate the design, qualities, significance or effect of marriage; replace these provisions with new language providing the state shall issue marriage licenses to individuals the age of eighteen or above and not nearer of kin than second cousins, and require that the state and its political subdivisions shall recognize and treat equally all marriages regardless of race, sex, or gender identity; provide that religious organizations and clergy members shall have the right to refuse to solemnize a marriage; and that these provisions are self-executing.

COMMITTEE TO REPRESENT THE PETITIONERS

The following persons are designated as a committee to represent the petitioners in all matters relating to the petition or its circulation:

Elizabeth Schmidt, 4282 State Road Medina, OH, 44256
Lis Regula, 291 S. Terrace Ave. Columbus, OH 43204
Joshua Kayes, 12116 S Pine Dr, Apt 309, Cincinnati, OH 45241
Antony Fair, 11825 Detroit Ave Unit 14 Lakewood, OH 44107
Ian Neinast, 6741 Oakland Rd, Loveland, OH 45140

FULL TEXT OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT

Be it Resolved by the People of the State of Ohio that Article XV, Section 11 of the Ohio Constitution is amended to repeal the language as shown below by strikethrough and to add the language shown underlined.

Article XV, Section 11. Marriage

~~Only a union between one man and one woman may be a marriage valid in or recognized by this state and its political subdivisions. This state and its political subdivisions shall not create or recognize a legal status for relationships of unmarried individuals that intends to approximate the design, qualities, significance or effect of marriage.~~ The State of Ohio shall issue marriage licenses to individuals the age of eighteen and above and not nearer of kin than second cousins, and the state and its political subdivisions shall recognize and treat equally all marriages regardless of race, sex, or gender identity. Religious organizations and members of clergy shall have the right to refuse to solemnize a marriage. This section is self-executing.