



# GETTING RID OF PROPERTY TAXES WOULD BE A DISASTER FOR OHIOANS

Property taxes are rising and getting rid of them sounds like an okay idea – until you realize **property taxes make up roughly 65% of local governments' revenue in Ohio**. This money funds first responders, parks, libraries, and schools, among other critical, shared services. Here's how to answer questions about how the ballot initiative could change the state's constitution.

## WHAT WOULD THE BALLOT INITIATIVE DO?

If approved by voters in 2026, the ballot initiative “Abolishment of Taxes on Real Property” would amend the Ohio constitution to get rid of property taxes and prohibit any future property taxes.

**Ohio leaders have not acted fast enough to relieve the pain caused by high property taxes**, so property tax abolition advocates are playing on Ohioans' frustration by pushing **an extreme option that would deprive the state of roughly \$24 billion in annual revenue, including \$13 billion to school districts**. The amendment does not address how the state would make up this revenue.

## I'M HURTING DUE TO RISING HOUSING COSTS. WON'T THIS HELP?

**Concerns about rising property taxes are valid** – increases can force people out of their homes and are particularly hard for seniors on fixed incomes. But eliminating property taxes without a plan to make up the lost revenue is unworkable and unreasonable.

**Making up the money could include tax policies that harm middle- and lower-income people** like a steep sales tax (one Ohio county estimated they would need an over-the-state-limit 15% sales tax to make up the difference) and increased income taxes.

## WHAT'S THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE BALLOT INITIATIVE?

Supporters need more than 413,000 signatures from at least 5% of voters in 44 counties to get it on the ballot in 2026. They have until July 2, 2026, to hit this goal and a poll from August 2025 showed 61% of Ohioans support the measure.

**One of the main groups pushing the ballot initiative is now saying they're not interested in any solutions offered by lawmakers**. More than a year before the 2026 elections, the Committee to Eliminate Property Taxes has declared that Ohio leaders have already failed to address the problem, so they're pushing forward with this reckless “solution” regardless of what happens in Columbus. **Almost like they never wanted to see leaders act to find another way.**



## THIS SOUNDS LIKE A BAD IDEA. WHAT CAN I DO?

**First, don't sign the petition – and make sure your friends and family don't either!**

Defeating this outrageous idea BEFORE it gets to voters is crucial.

**Educate people on solutions to an issue that is harming Ohioans and emphasize that members of BOTH parties think getting rid of property taxes is a bad idea.** While the political parties in Ohio don't agree on how to solve the issue of rising property taxes, the threat of eliminating them has clearly lit a fire. Governor Mike DeWine, state legislators, and county auditors are looking for another way. Tell your state representatives and senators they should work together to adopt reforms like:

- Creating a property tax “circuit breaker” that would provide targeted relief for people whose property taxes are a disproportionate share of their income. **Senate Bill 271 promotes a circuit breaker approach.**
- Expanding the Homestead Program, which provides property tax exemptions for qualifying seniors, people with disabilities, including military veterans, and spouses of first responders killed in the line of duty.

**Download the Red Wine & Blue app to help educate and mobilize your friends and family.**

Ohio's property tax problems didn't happen overnight. Scrapping the whole system isn't the answer, though – we need thoughtful, intentional work to find a solution.

“Lead now, or the people will surely blow up the property-tax system. Reform will be painful, but not nearly as painful as trying to replace \$20 billion in revenue that supports schools and local government.”

– **Dave Yost, Republican Attorney General of Ohio.**

## “ABOLISHMENT OF TAXES ON REAL PROPERTY” BY THE NUMBERS

**65%**

Percentage of state and local government revenue that comes from property taxes

**\$24  
BILLION**

Lost annual revenue for local governments

**\$13  
BILLION**

Lost annual funding for schools

**61%**

Percentage of Ohioans, as of August 2025, who say they'd vote yes

