

PEOPLE POWERED

How Ballot Initiatives Bring Change

Wednesday, May 27, 7:00 pm



**Ohio Ballot
Protection**
Restoring voter confidence



Who Are We?

- **Nonpartisan, pro-process**
- **Protecting citizen rights initiatives & referenda**
- **We are grassroots – everyday Ohioans**



**Ohio Ballot
Protection**
Restoring voter confidence

www.OhioBallotProtection.com

We Have Power!

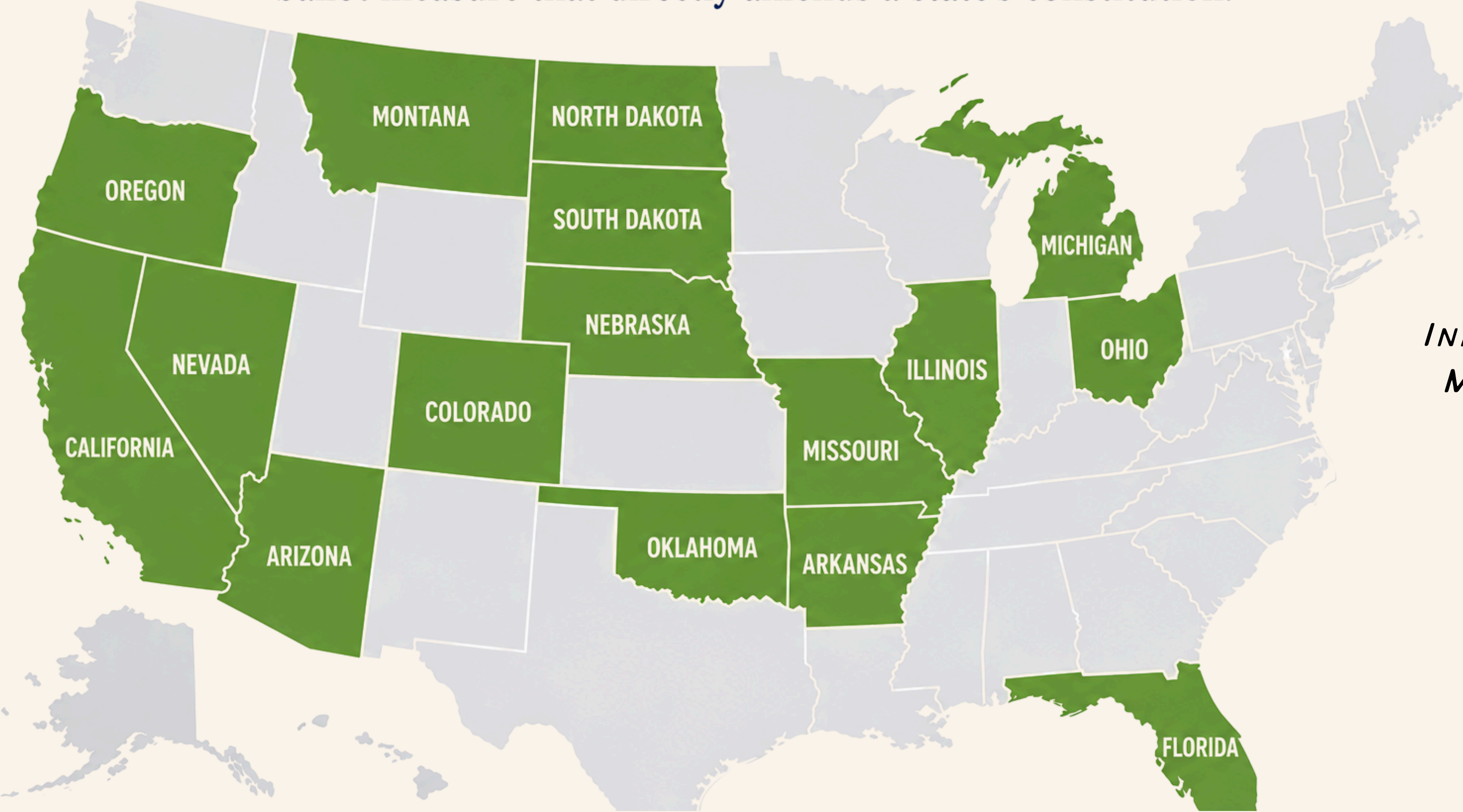
**Ohio's Constitution allows us
to bring to voters:**

- **Constitutional Amendments**
- **Statutory Initiatives**
- **Referendums**



Constitutional Amendments:

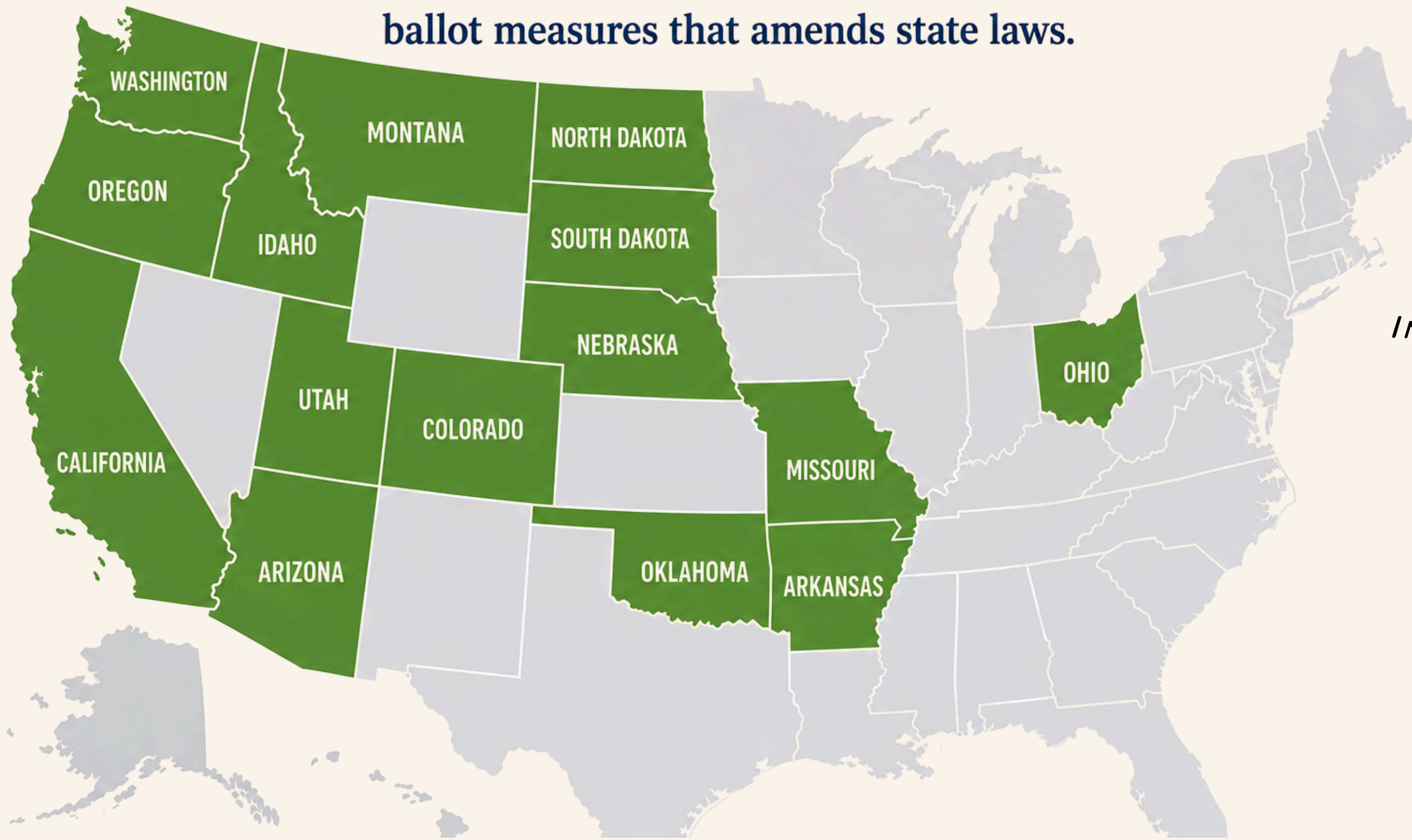
★ ——— An initiated constitutional amendment is a citizen-initiated ballot measure that directly amends a state's constitution. ——— ★



*INDIRECT POWERS:
MASSACHUSETTS*

★ — State Statutes: — ★

Initiated state statutes are citizen-initiated ballot measures that amends state laws.



INDIRECT POWERS:
ALASKA
MAINE
MASSACHUSETTS
MICHIGAN
NEVADA
WYOMING

Veto Referendum:

Veto referendums are citizen-initiated ballot measures that ask voters whether to uphold or repeal a law that has already been enacted.





1918: People get ultimate say in Ohio ratifying amendments to the U.S. Constitution



1933: Grant home rule by county



1992: Limit successive terms



2006: Ban indoor smoking



2011: Choose health care & health care coverage



2017: Provide rights for crime victims



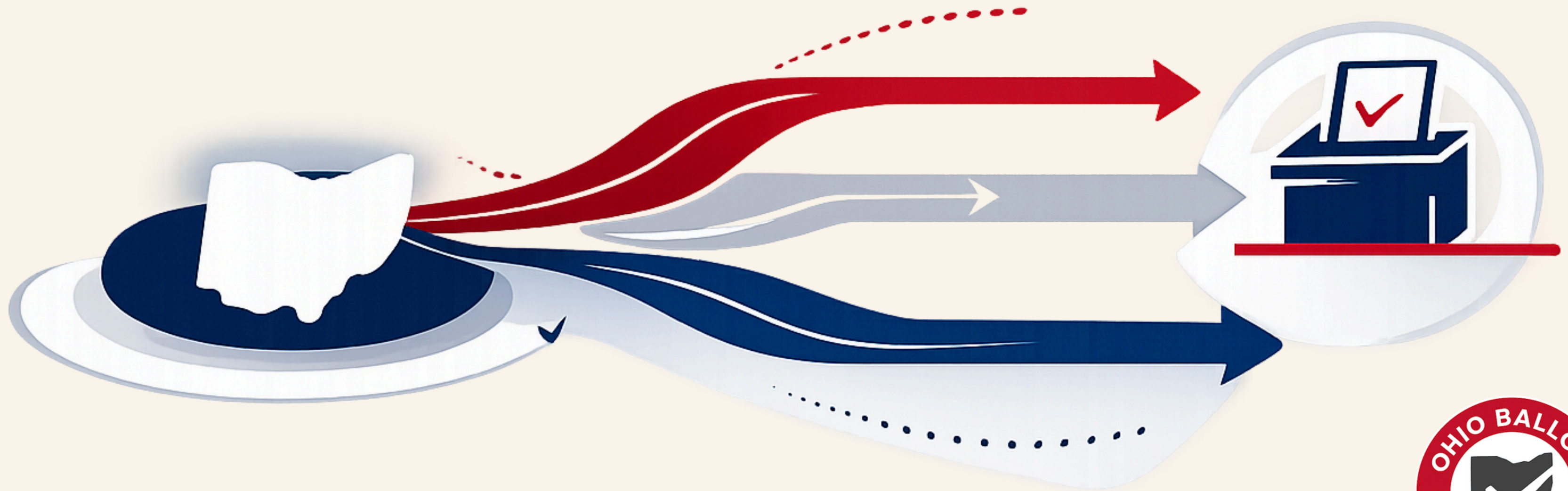
2023: Enshrine abortion & reproductive rights

Just a few

Wins!



How a Citizen Initiative Works



Overview: Constitutional Amendment

1 DRAFT PROPOSAL & SUMMARY



- **Draft the proposed initiative** and summary of changes
- **Get signatures** from at least 1,000 registered Ohio voters.

2 CERTIFICATION

3 GATHER SIGNATURES

4 FILING & VERIFICATION

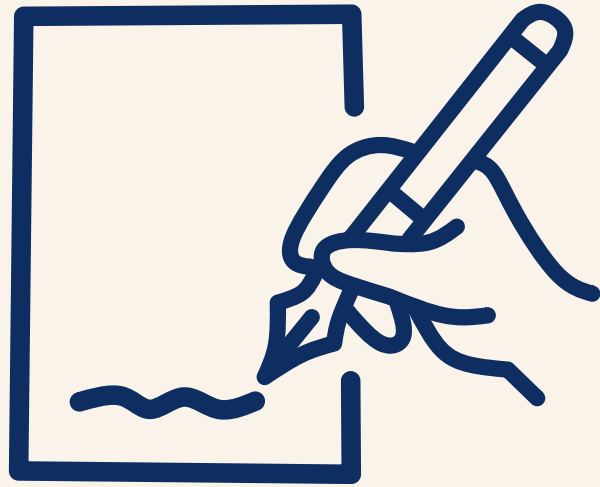
5 BALLOT LANGUAGE

6 VOTE!

Ohio citizens vote.
If passed, the initiative becomes law within 30 days.



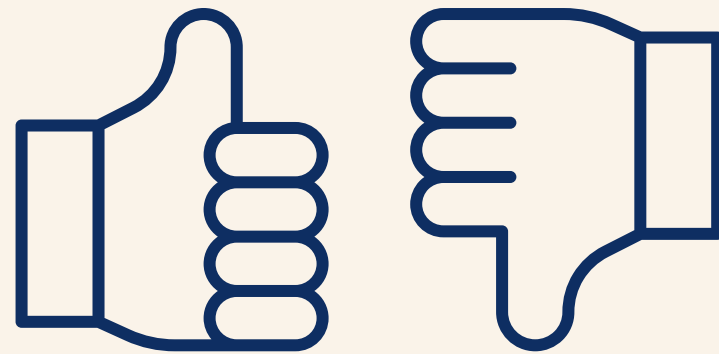
Before You Ever See It on the Ballot



**Draft
proposal and
petition
language**



**AG certifies
as “fair and
truthful”**



**Ballot Board
reviews
for 1 subject**



**Signatures
gathered**



**Ballot Board
writes
language
voters see**



Signature Gathering



Goal: 413,487

Based on votes cast for governor:

- **10% overall (state)**
- **5% from at least ½ of counties**

Due: July 1 for Nov. 3 election



Why Do It?

- When the legislature won't act...
- When politicians ignore voters...
- When citizens demand change...

**Citizen led ballot initiatives
are the people's tool.**

www.OhioBallotProtection.com



Conserve Ohio

*Petition to ban data centers >25MW
energy/mo*

- 25 MW aggregate monthly demand or peak load
- Community control vs Big Tech steamroll
- AI Bubble
 - Speculative building, decommissioning
 - Tech hub or tech dump?
- Data privacy in the hands of corporate interests
- Local community carries the burden
 - Energy, & water consumption
 - Health & eco impacts: noise, light, air, chip pollution
 - Acres per job



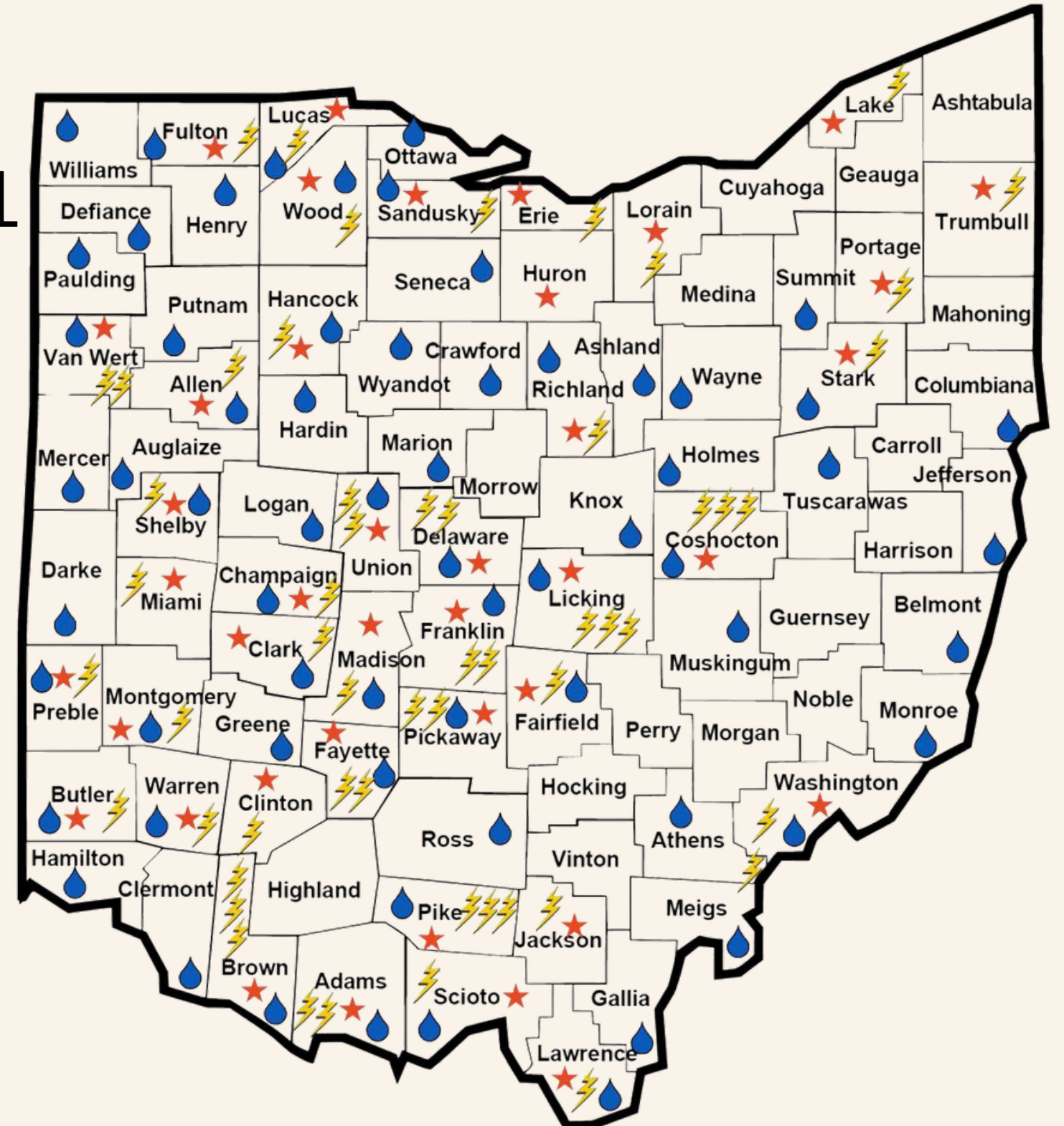
Conserve Ohio



- Where to sign
 - *Note:* Signing may go beyond 7/1
- How to get the petition
- Become a county lead!

Join the movement:

<https://www.conserveohio.com/>





Ohio Equal Rights and Right to Marry Amendments

- Constitutional protections for equal rights and personal autonomy
- Community-led democracy vs. political extremism and government overreach
- Protecting families, marriages, and bodily autonomy from shifting political attacks
- Long-term legal stability instead of patchwork protections vulnerable to repeal
- Will Ohio remain a place where all people can thrive — or a state where rights depend on politics?
- Privacy, healthcare, and personal decisions kept in the hands of individuals and families



Ways to Get Involved!

- Read the text
- Sign the petitions
 - <https://www.ohioequalrights.org/events>
- Volunteer
- Donate

For Organizations:

- Endorse
- Join the coalition

ERA Text



RTM Text





All political power is inherent in the people.

Government is instituted for their equal protection and benefit, and they have the right to alter, reform, or abolish the same, whenever they may deem it necessary; and no special privileges or immunities shall ever be granted, that may not be altered, revoked, or repealed by the general assembly.



PATHWAY TO OHIO'S 2026 BALLOT

WE START FROM A POSITION OF STRENGTH



OUR PLAN

- ✓ Identify Supporters
- ✓ Connect to Accountability
- ✓ Turn Support into Signatures

KEY PRINCIPLES

- Community Safety & Trust
- Protecting the Next Generation
- One Standard of Justice



FOLLOW UP & RESOURCES



Slide deck
Recording
Links



WHAT'S NEXT?



VIRTUAL EVENT

ANTI-BLACKNESS IS THE POINT

WITH DR. KIMBERLÉ CRENSHAW

THURSDAY MAY 28 | 6:00 PM ET




RED WINE & BLUE CIVICS

Red Tape or Equity Guardrails?
Federal Education Waivers Come to Ohio
Monday, June 1, 7:00 pm Virtual



What Paid Leave Could Mean for Families ?



RED WINE & BLUE CIVICS THURSDAY JUNE 4 | 7:30 PM ET | VIRTUAL EVENT