

Number: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_

**Amendment to the Constitution  
Proposed by Initiative Petition to be  
Submitted Directly to the Electors**

**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 summary of the same.

**Title**

Ohio Citizens' Jury Amendment

**Summary**

This Amendment would add Section 15a to Article II of the Ohio Constitution to create citizens' juries—a group of 150 randomly selected citizens from the State of Ohio who are gathered to consider and vote on a bill, which will become law if approved by a super majority of the jurors. The proposed amendment's provisions include, among other things, the following:

- 1. Convening a Citizens' Jury.** One-quarter of all the members of the general assembly can call on the president of the Senate and the speaker of the House of Representatives to convene a citizens' jury to consider a bill.
- 2. Members of Citizens' Jury.** A citizens' jury consists of 150 randomly selected members who are (1) at least 18 years old; (2) U.S. citizens; (3) residents of Ohio for at least the previous 18 months; (4) qualified to be electors, even if not registered to vote; and (5) not members of a prior citizens' jury convened in the last five years.
- 3. Judge for the Citizens' Jury.** The chief justice of the Supreme Court of Ohio designates a common pleas judge who is responsible for making sure that the president of the Senate and the speaker of the House of Representatives convene a jury in accordance with the requirements of the Constitution of the State of Ohio.
- 4. Presentations.** Once the citizens' jury is selected, it hears two weeks of presentations from advocates for and against the bill. The judge for the citizens' jury oversees these presentations, making sure both sides get equal time. The presentations are made by members of the general assembly, along

with whatever witnesses they call to testify in front of the citizens' jury.

5. **Deliberations and vote.** After presentations, the citizens' jury has a week to deliberate. If sixty percent of the members vote to approve the bill during that week, it becomes law. If not, it fails.
6. **No veto, but a referendum.** Laws enacted by citizens' juries would not be subject to a governors' veto, but they could be overturned by referendum.
7. **Remote participation.** The president of the Senate and the speaker of the House of Representatives are required to convene a citizens' jury in an appropriate location at the state's capitol. But members of the jury can participate either in-person or remotely.
8. **Juror's Rights.** Members of a citizens' jury would be entitled to the same rights afforded to members of a petit jury for civil and criminal cases.
9. **Supreme Court's Jurisdiction.** The Ohio Supreme Court is given exclusive, original jurisdiction in all cases arising under this article.

#### **Certification of the Attorney General.**

This certification of the Attorney General, pursuant to Ohio Revised Code § 35109.01(A), will be inserted when it is provided. It must be submitted with at least one thousand (1,000) valid signatures of Ohio electors before the Attorney General will issue that certification.

#### **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:

Lucas M. Blower	5129 West Bath Road, Akron, Ohio 44333
Nathaniel S. Blower	168 Longview Drive, Wadsworth, Ohio 44281
Elijah J. Blower	1123 Roosevelt Avenue, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio 44223
Zechariah L. Blower	66 Ridgewood Road, Wadsworth, Ohio 44281

**NOTICE**

**Whoever knowingly signs this petition more than once; except as provided in § 3501.382 of the Revised Code, signs a name other than one's own on this petition; or signs this petition when not a qualified voter, is liable to prosecution.**

**MUST USE MOST RECENT ADDRESS ON FILE WITH BOARD OF ELECTIONS**

*(Sign with ink. Your name, residence, and date of signing must be given)*

Signature	County	Township	Rural Route or other Post office Address	Month/Day/Year
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(Voters who do not live in a municipal corporation should fill in the information called for by headings printed above.)

(Voters who reside in municipal corporations should fill in the information called for by headings printed above.)

Signature	County	City or Village	Street and Number	Ward/ Precinct	Month/Day/Year
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1. Signature	Print First Name			Initial
	Print Last Name			
Address on file with the Board of Election (i.e. W – West) and Street (i.e. Ave – Avenue)				
City	Ward/Precinct	Zip Code	County	Date of Signing
1. Signature	Print First Name			Initial
	Print Last Name			
Address on file with the Board of Election (i.e. W – West) and Street (i.e. Ave – Avenue)				
City	Ward/Precinct	Zip Code	County	Date of Signing

## Full Text of Amendment

Be it resolved by the people of the State of Ohio that the Constitution of the State of Ohio is hereby amended to add Section 15a to Article II to read as follows:

### **Article II. Section 15a. Citizens' Jury**

(A) If at least one quarter of the members of both houses of the general assembly sign a letter calling for a citizens' jury to consider passage of a bill, then the president of the Senate and the speaker of the House of Representatives shall, within 90 days of receipt of such letter, convene a citizens' jury to vote on the bill. Each citizens' jury shall consider only one bill.

(B) A citizens' jury shall consist of 150 citizens selected at random, each of whom must be

(1) at least 18 years old;

(2) a citizen of the United States of America;

(3) a resident of the State of Ohio for at least the previous 18 months continuously;

(4) an elector, or qualified to be an elector if the person were registered to vote, regardless of whether the person actually is registered to vote; and

(5) not selected to serve on a prior citizens' jury for at least the previous five years.

(C) For each citizens' jury convened by the president of the Senate and the speaker of the House of Representatives, the chief justice of the Supreme Court shall designate one of the judges of the courts of common pleas in the State of Ohio to serve as judge for the citizens' jury. The judge for the citizens' jury shall oversee the selection of the members of the citizens' jury to ensure that such selection process comports with all the requirements of Section 15a, Article II of the Constitution of the State of Ohio.

(D) (1) After a citizens' jury is empaneled with 150 members, that jury will consider presentations for and against the bill for two weeks. The judge for the citizens' jury will oversee these presentations and will be responsible for ensuring that advocates for and against the bill are given equal time to make their presentations.

(2) During the two weeks of presentations, any person who is a member of any house of the general assembly at the time the citizens' jury is convened may present evidence, call witnesses to testify, and make arguments to the citizens' jury, subject to limitations imposed by the judge for the citizens' jury in accordance with all the

requirements of Section 15a, Article II of the Constitution of the State of Ohio.

(E) (1) After two weeks of presentations, the citizens' jury shall have one week in which to deliberate and vote.

(2) If, at any point during that one-week deliberation period, at least ninety (90) of the members of the citizens' jury vote in favor of the bill, then it shall be the law and shall go into effect thirty days after it was approved and shall be published by the secretary of state.

(3) If, at the end of the one-week deliberation period, at least ninety (90) of the members of the citizens' jury have not voted in favor of the bill, then the bill will fail and will not become law.

(F) No law enacted by a citizens' jury shall be subject to the veto of the governor but may be subject to referendum under the procedures set out in Section 1c, Article II of the Ohio State Constitution.

(G) The president of the Senate and the speaker of the House of Representatives shall convene citizens' juries at an appropriate location in the State's capitol in a space that can accommodate both in-person and remote deliberation. Any member or potential member of a citizens' jury can participate in any part of the proceedings either in-person or remotely through any reasonably available technological means.

(H) Any member or potential member of a citizens' jury is entitled to the same rights that are provided under this State's law to members and potential members of petit juries.

(I) The supreme court of Ohio shall have exclusive, original jurisdiction in all cases arising under this article.

STATEMENT OF CIRCULATOR

I, \_\_\_\_\_, declare under penalty of falsification that I am the circulator of the foregoing petition paper containing signatures of \_\_\_\_ electors, that the signatures appended hereto were made and appended in my presence on the date set opposite each respective name, and are signatures of the persons whose names they purport to be or of attorneys in fact acting pursuant section 3501.382 of the Revised Code, and that the electors signing this petition did so with knowledge of the contents of same. I am employed to circulate this petition by \_\_\_\_\_ (Name and address of employer).

*(The preceding sentence shall be completed as required by section 3501.38 of the Revised Code if the circulator is being employed to circulate the petition.)*

I further declare under penalty of election falsification in accordance with section 3501.38 of the Revised Code that I witnessed the affixing of every signature to the foregoing petition paper, that all signers were to the best of my knowledge and belief the signature of the person whose signature purports to be or of an attorney in fact acting pursuant to section 3501.382 of the Revised Code.

(signed) \_\_\_\_\_

(address of circulator's permanent address in this state) \_\_\_\_\_

**WHOEVER COMMITS ELECTION FALSIFICATION IS GUILTY OF A FELONY OF THE FIFTH DEGREE**