

Cancel constitutional clutter and calcification

Jim Uphoff
Ed. D.



Our own U.S. Constitution has been in effect for well over two centuries and yet can be carried with us as though it were a pocket calendar. It has been changed via amendments, but not very often. Yet it has been a rock-solid guide to the basic fundamental principles upon which our system of governance is based. It has also been a living document in that it has also enabled us to make key changes in our society, but within its timeless structure.

BUT our Ohio Constitution is

again under attack as group after group try to use it instead of working through the normal legislative process to make changes. This time it is Issues 2 and 3 that want to use the state's Constitution to get what they want to happen.

Issue 2 seeks to create a "farm animal/livestock" governing board and Issue 3 wants to OK casino gambling but with very specific locations, funding, etc.

If passed, NO CHANGES to them could ever be enacted by our legislature because they would have become a part of the Constitution! Let me share with you a direct contrast to this attempt to "lock-in" a given proposal.

Early in 2004 Ohio's General Assembly passed SB 4. A part of that bill created a new state body, the Educator Standards Board (ESB).

The bill set forth the size of the board, how it would be selected, categories of people who were to be voting members, tasks that the ESB was required to accomplish and timelines for this. I was one of the people appointed by the State Board of Education to serve on the ESB. We worked very hard and met all of the law's expectations.

But times change and so do needs, The current General Assembly in July 2009 passed HB 1 which revised the make up of the ESB by adding several more categories of positions to become a part of the board's membership. It also established some new expectations of actions the ESB now needs to take.

The point is that in over just five years new conditions were noticed and changes that were now needed

could be addressed using the normal legislative process. No one needed to gather tens of thousands of signatures on petitions and then spend "mucho" money on a state-wide campaign for another NEW Constitutional amendment.

Such ability to adapt in a timely and thoughtful way to changes in our society, economy, court deci-

sions, etc. regarding the content of Issues 2 and 3 will NOT exist IF they are approved. Passing Issues 2 and 3 has the real potential to CALCIFY and CLUTTER our own Ohio CONSTITUTION. I am voting NO on them and my vote has nothing to do with their content. I value the quality of our legislative system and our state Constitution!

Lange Book Fair Oct 20-22

Please come to Lange School's Scholastic Book Fair!
Hours: Oct. 20 1p.m.-3p.m.;
Oct. 21, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Oct. 22,
9 a.m.-3 p.m. Family Night is
on Wed, Oct 21 from 6 p.m.-

8 p.m. where there will be a raffle, bake sale, face painting and more. All proceeds go to Lange School and enrichment programs. Hope to see you there!

Lange School kids learn about opera



The Opera Guild of Dayton's "Opera Marionettes Program" introduced Lange Kindergarten students to the opera. Three musicians representing the strings, wind/brass and percussion families provided a wonderful rendition of the "William Tell Overture". The female voices were the soprano, Musetta from "La Boheme" by Puccini and Carmen from Bizet's "Carmen". The male voices were the tenor, Duke of Mantua from Verdi's "Rigoletto" and Sarastro from Mozart's "Magic Flute". Debbie Drake, the music teacher at Lange School, arranged for this enjoyable program.

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— Pam Kraft,
Certified Nurse Practitioner



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