



# ELECTION 2014

## Ohio State Issue 1 Public Works Renewal

### Commissioner urges passage of Issue 1

BY MARIAN MCMAHON

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**LAKE COUNTY** – Believing in the importance and necessity of the passage of state Issue 1 on the May ballot, the Strong Communities Committee was created as a bipartisan, statewide group to promote Issue 1, which would not increase any taxes.

"I've been asked to serve as the Lake County chair for Issue 1 that will be before the voters in May; that is a renewal for 10 more years of the Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) program," Lake County Board of Commissioners President Dan Troy said at the March 27 commissioners meeting.

The issue, proposed by a joint resolution of the General Assembly is: "to fund public infrastructure capital improvements by permitting the issuance of general obligation bonds."

Issue 1, known as Issue 2 when first approved in 1987 and renewed again in 1995 and 2005, is up for renewal for another 10 years.

Troy said he had a resolution he would bring before the commissioners for approval the following week. He encouraged all the other communities to adopt similar resolutions urging passage of Issue 1.

He said more than \$80 million has been provided for Lake County projects from the OPWC State Capital Improvement Program (SCIP) and another \$105 million from the OPWC Local Transportation Improvement Program (LTIP).

"It's a program that has really worked," Troy said. "All of the bonds that are issued for these particular projects—

whether they're road projects, utility projects, a lot of repair stuff, reconditioning of sewer and water lines—is all backed by the general fund of the state of Ohio."

He added the program has made it possible for many smaller communities to compete projects which would otherwise have been financially unfeasible.

### FACTS ABOUT ISSUE 1:

27 years of helping local governments

- More than 11,500 local road, bridge, sewer, water and solid waste projects completed.

- Projects completed in all 88 counties. See [www.pwc.state.oh.us/AssistanceHistory.html](http://www.pwc.state.oh.us/AssistanceHistory.html) for complete list.

- Extends program 10 more years, authorizing \$1.875 billion in infrastructure aid for local governments.

- Approves \$175 million a year for five years, then \$200 million a year for the next five years.

- Provides 90 percent grants for repair/replacement projects and 50 percent for new projects.

- Objective allocation process.

#### No increase in taxes

- Funds to repay Issue 1 are already built into planning for future state budgets.

- Ohio's high financial rating makes renewal and a modest expansion of one of Ohio's most successful programs possible.

#### Issue 1 provides jobs

- The program has created tens of thousands of jobs during the past 27 years and will provide an estimated 35,000 more construction and related jobs during the next decade.