

# FIVE REASONS TO VOTE NO ON ISSUE 1

Supporters of Issue 1 on November's ballot claim that this Ohio Constitutional Amendment would reduce the prison population and increase treatment for those addicted to drugs. Although these ideas have merit, here is the reality of how this amendment would work:

1) Issue 1 would **make the possession of powdered fentanyl in amounts less than 20 grams a misdemeanor.**

- 19 grams of fentanyl is enough to kill 10,000 people

2) Issue 1 **prohibits a judge to sentence an individual convicted of possession of drugs to any jail unless it is a third conviction for possession within 2 years.**

- If an individual is convicted twice within 2 years of possession of 19 grams of fentanyl, enough to kill 20,000 people, that person CANNOT receive any jail time.

3) Issue 1 **prohibits a judge from revoking probation for a person convicted of possession of drugs for any reason other than a new conviction.**

- If a judge orders an individual to have drug treatment, the judge cannot enforce it.
- If an individual chooses to never go to treatment and to continue to use, there will not be any consequences.

4) The **effectiveness of drug court programs will be reduced**, if not eliminated.

- An individual convicted of drug possession cannot receive any jail time or have probation revoked unless there is a new conviction for possession. What incentive would a person have to receive and engage in treatment? The potential of jail time is an incentive for many to follow a judge's order and engage in treatment.

5) As a constitutional amendment, **Issue 1 cannot be changed by any means other than another statewide ballot issue.**

- To fix any problems with Issue 1 it has to be by another constitutional amendment. This process is slow and costly.

The proponents of Issue 1 seek to help those who are addicted to drugs, and this goal should be applauded. Issue 1 in reality does the opposite; it increases the incentive to traffic drugs in Ohio and to not seek treatment because there are no consequences. Issue 1 would be devastating for Ohio and more importantly, for those who need treatment.

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