

The Neighborhood Safety, Drug Treatment, and Rehabilitation

amendment is designed to increase public safety while decreasing incarceration. This proposed constitutional amendment will be put before Ohio voters in November 2018. This amendment will do four things:

① **Cut-off the addiction-to-prison pipeline:** The amendment would reclassify from felony to misdemeanor any crime for obtaining, possessing, or using a drug or drug paraphernalia. All current drug *trafficking* felonies would remain felonies. The amendment would allow the reclassification even for past offenses, subject to judicial discretion. That means people currently in prison for possession-only offenses could be released; people in the community with old drug-possession felonies could avoid job barriers created by those former felonies.

② **Cut-off the probation-to-prison pipeline:** Twenty-three percent of people coming to Ohio's prison each year (about 4,700 annually) are for probation violations that are not new felonies. The amendment would prohibit prison sentences for probation rule infractions that are not new criminal offenses. Probationers who violate their supervision rules would still be held accountable, but more effectively and affordably through appropriate local sanctions.

Following the research-backed best practices from across America, our amendment encourages probation departments to use small rewards as well as small punishments to keep probationers on the straight and narrow. Research suggests that the rewards are, in fact, the more effective side of that two-sided coin. Carrot and stick, yes; but *more carrot, less stick*.

③ **Reward personal rehabilitation in prison:** Data and personal stories demonstrate that safety and rehabilitation improve when people earn days off of their prison terms for participating in quality programming. The amendment would expand the ability of current inmates to earn these modest sentence reductions.

④ **Transformative investments in community health:** The first three reforms will safely and significantly shrink the prison population. The amendment will then redirect the resultant savings into treatment and support programs for youths and adults — thus further improving safety and decreasing our state's misuse of prisons to solve social ills.

The campaign for the Neighborhood Safety, Drug Treatment, and Rehabilitation Amendment is led by

- the **Ohio Organizing Collaborative** [ohorganizing.org],
- the **Ohio Justice & Policy Center** [www.ohiojpc.org],
- the **Ohio Transformation Fund** [www.ohtransformationfund.org], and
- the **Alliance for Safety and Justice** [www.allianceforsafetyandjustice.org].

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