

A RESOLUTION OPPOSING CONSTITUTIONAL
TAX AND EXPENDITURE LIMITATION
PROPOSALS (TABOR and Similar Proposals)

WHEREAS, the Citizens for Tax Reform and others are endorsing proposals to amend the Ohio Constitution to institute tax and expenditure limitations at the state, and local levels of government that could only be overridden by a popular vote – an example of these proposals is the so-called “Taxpayers Bill of Rights”; and

WHEREAS, Colorado has instituted a similar Constitutional proposal and faced such severe problems in meeting the basic needs of their citizenry that voters suspended key aspects of the law in November 2005; and

WHEREAS, such proposals tie the hands of state and local leaders in times of crisis and other unpredictable circumstances, circumventing state and local governments’ thoughtful consideration of policy decisions; and

WHEREAS, such a proposal would reduce funding for education, health care, public safety, libraries, economic development, and other vital services to citizens; and

WHEREAS, such a proposal could undercut state constitutional provisions requiring state support of education and require the repeal of all state laws that conflict with the proposal; and

WHEREAS, such proposals would prevent state and local officials from making the tough decisions they were elected to make, passing the responsibility for learning all aspects of often complex issues to citizens who have other jobs and responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, such a proposal would allow taxpayers to initiate litigation against political subdivisions in order to cut services and have those lawsuits paid for by other taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, such a proposal would grant veto power to non-voters, in a perversion of the democratic process, by creating a super-majority requirement that few political subdivisions could meet; and

WHEREAS, amending the constitution is a virtually irrevocable action and should only be undertaken when legislative remedies have proven enduringly inadequate; and

WHEREAS, such constitutional tinkering brings great harm to local communities through continued reductions in state funding, erodes decision-making at the local level and degrades government’s ability to provide the basic services residents and businesses expect and deserve; and

WHEREAS, such proposals would force the state, and local governments, to spend valuable time and money asking for permission from the same people who elected them before any action can be taken on important issues, and would also force taxpayers to pay twice for governance – once for elections of their state and local officials and again for elections to make the decisions those officials should have made; and

WHEREAS, such proposals contradict the fundamental principles upon which our Constitution and system of representative government are based and damages the ability to craft good public policy;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Village of South Point, State of Ohio:

Section 1: That the Mayor and the Council of the Village of South Point believe that state and local elected officials are elected to do a job – that job is to represent the

interests of their constituents, to deal with difficult decisions, to thoughtfully debate and determine the best course of action for the state or the community they serve.

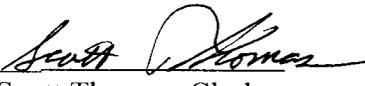
Section 2: That the Mayor and the Council hereby **OPPOSE** the proposed changes to the Ohio Constitution including, but not limited to the Constitutional Tax and Expenditure Limitation Proposals (TABOR and similar proposals) that would arbitrarily constrain state and local governments' ability to effectively realize and allocate the tax resources needed to meet the people's needs through a representative democracy, and supports efforts to defeat the proposed changes to the Ohio Constitution.

Section 3: Wherefore, this resolution shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage by Council and the signature of the Mayor.

Adopted This 2nd Day of May, 2006



William A. Gaskin, Mayor

Attest: 
Scott Thomas, Clerk

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