

Educate Yourself About Issue 1 Facts

VOTE ON AUGUST 4, 2009!

- The last tax increase was **27 years ago** in 1982; demand for city services has increased as population has grown by almost a third.
- Without a tax increase, of a half penny, the City will need to lay off hundreds of police officers and fire fighters, severely restrict recreation and parks services, and substantially reduce the frequency of trash pickup.
- Social Security, veterans' benefits, pensions, dividends, capitol gains, disability benefits, military pay, 401 distributions, interest on savings accounts, and income from under age 18 will not be taxed.
- The cost would be \$17 a month for the average middle class family making \$40,000 a year.
- 53 % of the tax will be paid by those who live outside the city but work in Columbus.
- If Issue 1 is passed the services that we have now can be maintained. The city will restore some but not all services that have been cut.
- If Issue 1 is not passed in August cuts must begin shortly after to ensure a balanced budget in 2010.
- By law Capital funds that pay for infrastructure projects like construction and road work can not be used for city operations such as hiring police and firefighters.
- Columbus city civilian workforce has been cut 32% since 2000. Now in 2009 73% of the city budget goes to Public Safety (Police Officers & Firefighters) which will be cut if Issue 1 does not pass.
- Spending has been curtailed through cuts and efficiencies. The city has spent **\$67 million less** than was budgeted from 2001 to 2008. More revenue is needed to avoid deeper cuts.

2001 vs. 2009 Comparison

Social Services	Cut 67.0%	Neighborhood Health Centers	Cut 32.5%
Franklin Park Conservatory	Cut 91%	Health Dept general fund subsidy	Cut 18.0%
Home Care & Hospice Services	Cut 100%	Refuse Collection	Cut 25%
Vehicle Replacement (mostly cruisers)	Cut 74%	Code Enforcement	Cut 15%
Recreation & Parks general fund subsidy	Cut 30%		