

TO: OHHA Membership

FROM: OHHA General Manager, Jerry Knappenberger

ISSUE: Pending Ballot Issue, November Election

When discussing this November's upcoming election, and the proposed gaming initiative, here are some key issues that you should keep in mind and discuss with individuals on the importance of equine agriculture & racing in Ohio.

Three Key Talking-points for discussing this upcoming November's Issue:

- **A 'YES' vote, is a vote to create jobs for Ohioans**
- **A 'YES' vote, is a vote to keep taxes low**
- **A 'YES' vote, is a vote for agriculture**

- We do not currently have a ballot issue number, but it is confirmed that our issue will be on the November ballot.

- The issue will be a referendum, not an amendment to the Ohio constitution. It will read similar to this phrase, "A vote to support the language in House Bill #1". WE WILL BE VOTING 'YES' ON THIS ISSUE.

- Voting for this issue will help to fill the state's budget gap. Its passage will help to prevent cutting critical state programs such as our school & library systems and will keep taxes from rising.

- A 'YES' vote will provide Ohio horsemen the opportunity to compete on a level playing field with horsemen in surrounding states.

- What was once a \$1 billion industry has been allowed to slip away from Ohio, 'YES' is a vote to save Ohio agriculture and to create agricultural based jobs.

- As recent as 2004, Ohio led the nation in standardbred mares bred (2,500), as of the last count of 2009 that number has dropped to (620). This problem has taken Ohio's jobs and depleted a once robust sector of its economy.

- The Ohio equine industry employs more people in this state than Procter & Gamble and Honda, combined.