

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Jan. 30, 2007

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## **ATTORNEY GENERAL APPROVES FIRST STEP TOWARD CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO FIX SCHOOL FUNDING**

*Consortium readying grassroots campaign to get Ohioans informed and involved*

COLUMBUS, Ohio – Ohio Attorney General Marc Dann today approved the ballot language contained in **Getting It Right for Ohio's Future's** proposed constitutional amendment, which was submitted by a consortium of 12 statewide education groups dedicated to strengthening education and economic opportunities in Ohio. The amendment will establish a high-quality education as a fundamental right for Ohio's public school children through the implementation of a new school funding model.

Of the 5,109 signatures submitted on January 17 by the Campaign for Ohio's Future, 4,538, or 89 percent, were deemed valid by the attorney general. Ohio law requires 1,000 signatures to establish a ballot initiative.

"We are very pleased, but not surprised, at the number of signatures we were able to collect, which is no doubt an indication of the kind of response we will get when asking the people of Ohio to help us solve this constitutional problem," said Jim Betts, spokesperson for the Campaign for Ohio's Future. "I'd like to thank Mr. Dann for his prompt ruling. We are now one step closer to finally securing a solution for all Ohioans."

The Ohio Ballot Board must now rule on the proposed language within 10 days. Once the petition is certified, **Getting It Right for Ohio's Future** will kick off an historic district-to-district grassroots campaign, gathering the 402,000 signatures needed to secure a place for the amendment on the November 6, 2007 ballot. The campaign will have until August 8 to collect the signatures.

The proposed amendment campaign, **Getting It Right for Ohio's Future**, will:

- Realistically calculate the components and cost of a high-quality education for all Ohio public school students and require legislative action to direct the state pay more of that cost – with constitutional checks and balances
- Create accountability for and public reporting of the results of these investments
- Reduce the number and amount of new property tax levies by shifting more of the investment burden to the state and allowing a portion of local school taxes to increase
- ~~With property~~ taxes for seniors and disabled citizens
- Protect state funding for school facilities, local government and higher education.

For more information about **Getting It Right for Ohio's Future**, visit [www.rightforohio.org](http://www.rightforohio.org).