

GETTING IT RIGHT!

For Ohio's Future

EDUCATED WORKFORCE, FAIR FUNDING

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DEROLPH 10TH ANNIVERSARY HIGHLIGHTS NEED FOR EDUCATION AMENDMENT

COLUMBUS, Ohio – Ohio's method of funding public schools was unconstitutional 10 years ago and it still is today.

Saturday, March 24 marks the 10th anniversary of the historic Ohio Supreme Court *DeRolph v. State of Ohio* decision ordering a "complete, systematic overhaul" of the public education funding system. Three additional state Supreme Court rulings found this overhaul never took place.

Ten years of debate in the Ohio General Assembly has led to some progress in Ohio public education funding but the flawed system putting an unfair burden on local property taxes remains unchanged. There is a solution: amending the state constitution to fix Ohio's broken public school funding system through the *Getting It Right for Ohio's Future* November ballot initiative.

"Ohio can't afford to wait another 10 years, or even one more year, to fix this problem," said Jim Betts, spokesperson for the Campaign for Ohio's Future. "*Getting It Right for Ohio's Future* gives the power to Ohio's voters to put a permanent, comprehensive solution in the state constitution that will finally fix our broken school funding system."

Ohio's current system forces school districts to repeatedly appeal to voters for increased property taxes merely to maintain current levels of educational programming. Since 2003, Ohio voters have faced more than 1,300 local school levies among the state's 614 school districts.

"The time for action is now," Betts said. "Ohio citizens can get involved to help place the amendment on the November ballot by signing a petition. Volunteers are actively gathering signatures statewide."

Getting It Right for Ohio's Future would:

- Guarantee accountability for results with public reports
- Identify the cost of high quality education and make the state pay a higher portion of the bill
- Reduce the number of property tax levies and require a higher state share of school funding
- Cut property taxes for senior citizen and disabled homeowners
- 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.