



Reasons to Vote NO on Issue 27 (the Jail Tax)

Minor Offenders Should Be Out on Bail, Not in Jail

- In 2004, persons between booking and court review **occupied 81%** of jail bed days. They had not yet been found innocent or guilty. In 1999, this number was 37%. What changed, and why aren't people out on bail?

Violent Offenders Will Still Be Off the Streets, Even Without the New Jail

- Expanding the jail will not make us safer. The most violent felons are in prison, not jail. Programs outside of the criminal justice system to help the homeless and mentally ill would do more to keep us safe. This plan takes dollars away from those systems, closing treatment centers like Reading Road and Turning Point, and moves those dollars to treatment in jail.

Community-Based Services for the Homeless, the Mentally Ill and the Chemically Dependent Will Make Us Safer; a New Jail Won't

- Many people are jailed because they are mentally ill. From 2001 to 2005, the mentally ill population in jail grew 475%. This is unacceptable.
- This plan proposes to provide mental health services to inmates, but it does not guarantee sufficient mental health treatment. In addition, the average length of stay for an inmate was 17 days in 2004. This is not long enough for effective treatment for mental health or addiction.
- Better yet would be to increase community-based treatment, so people don't get so ill they are jailed. **Vote for Issue 28, the Mental Health levy.**
- According to the Greater Cincinnati Coalition for the Homeless, about 6% of the daily jail population is homeless. Using that figure, about 117 homeless people were jailed daily in 2004. 72% of the crimes the homeless are charged with are misdemeanors and minor misdemeanors.

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The New Jail Will Undermine Police-Community Relations

- This plan gives \$2,250,000 annually to expand Sheriff Patrols in Over The Rhine. The Sheriff's Department is not covered under the Collaborative Agreement or the Citizens Review Panel. Both of these were hard-fought victories to improve police community relations. This plan undermines these victories.
- Jail crowding is affected by policing practices. Since the Collaborative Agreement, the Cincinnati Police Department has reduced arrests for petty crimes and increased the arrests of violent criminals. Instead of expanding the jail, encourage the Sheriff's Department and the other police departments to adopt Problem Oriented Policing.
- 63% of the Hamilton County Jail inmates are African American. Expanding the jail expands an institution that has a significant racial disparity.

The New Hamilton County Jail Costs Too Much

- The estimated per bed cost for the new jail is \$110,000. Clermont County per bed cost was \$50,925 in 2006. Warren County was \$27,777 in 2004. Butler County was \$47,619 in 2002. Why is our cost per bed so much higher?
- Population as a whole is down in both Hamilton County and the City of Cincinnati. Crime is down. We do not need more jail beds.
- If we build this jail, we will have more jail beds per capita than any other county in Ohio. Most progressive and liberals, and even some conservatives, agree that we, as a nation, jail far too many people.

Hamilton County is a good place to start to say no to the expansion of the jails of the prison-industrial-complex. Think globally – Act locally! Vote NO on Issue 27!

More information: www.nojailtax.org

Sponsored and paid for by No Jail Tax PAC (labor donated).
Treasurer: Reginald Dyck (registered in Hamilton County, Ohio)
email: nojailtax@yahoo.com
P.O. Box 20213, Cincinnati, OH, 45220-0213