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## **Progressive Voices Speak Out Against the Jail Tax – Issue 27**

Democratic State Representative **Tyrone Yates** recently called the “Smitherman on the Mike” call-in show on the WDBZ “The Buzz” radio station to announce his opposition to Issue 27. Democratic Party endorsed city council candidate **Brian Garry** announced he too is opposing Issue 27, saying, “The ultimate crime-fighting tool is good jobs with a decent wages and benefits. This program does not address these concerns. A meaningful living wage ordinance in Cincinnati will do much more to keep us safe. This proposal continues the same failed national policy of incarcerating more and more people. I cannot vote for any proposal that will lockup more African Americans and poor people.”

A group of treatment professionals has formed “**Treatment Professionals Against Issue 27.**” **Dr. Roland Heyne Sr.**, Adjunct Professor of Sociology at the University of Cincinnati, stated that he could not support the Jail Tax “until more provisions are in place to insure treatment programs.” Another member of Treatment Professionals against Issue 27, Psychologist and the host of the influential Lloyd House Salon **Dr. Ellen Bierhorst**, stated that she does not support the expansion of the jail.

Cincinnati’s progressive weekly news voice, *CityBeat*, endorsed No on 27, in their October 24<sup>th</sup> issue. Editor **John Fox** explained, “Ultimately, this new jail/safety plan is a huge investment in a solution that doesn't address the core problems in the Hamilton County justice system. <...> I've come around to the argument put forth that building more jail cells simply encourages local governments to arrest and jail more citizens. A larger supply helps create increased demand. **Having more jail cells than the county needs certainly wouldn't provide any incentive for county officials to overhaul our criminal justice system.**”

*CityBeat* reporter **Kevin Osborne** pointed out in his story "Too Many Behind Bars?" that people in Hamilton County who have criminal charges against them ultimately dismissed spend twice as many days in jail as those who are ultimately found guilty, according to a study conducted by the New York-based Vera Institute of Justice, commissioned by Hamilton County. ([Vera Report](#), July 31, 2006, p. 20)

The progressive voices above are joining **No Jail Tax PAC**, the **Cincinnati NAACP**, the **Green Party**, the **Cincinnati Beacon**, **Cincinnati Progressive Action**, Hamilton County Treasurer **Robert Goering**, and many others in demanding a real solution to our broken criminal justice system.

Cincinnati City Council candidates that have come out to date against Issue 27:

**Brian Garry** - endorsed Democrat

**Andre Harper** - endorsed Republican

**Justin Jeffre** - endorsed Green Party

**Sam Malone** - endorsed Republican

**Chris Monzel** - endorsed Republican and a member of Citizens on Patrol

**Michael Earl Patton** - endorsed Libertarian

**Steve Pavelish** - independent

**Charlie Windburn** - endorsed Republican

**George Zamar** - independent

Press release sponsored by No Jail Tax PAC (labor donated)  
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