



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR BACKGROUND SEE: www.nojailtax.org

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PROGRESSIVE VICTORY DEFEATS ISSUE 12 JAIL TAX

Hamilton County voters surprised the political establishment, defeating by a large margin Issue 12, the proposed sales tax to pay for a new county jail. Issue 12 had been backed by local Republican and Democrat leaders alike, by corporations, and by wealthy contributors, who put up over \$275,000 to pass the measure.

“An independent group of social justice activists succeeded in winning the support of a majority of voters to defeat this issue,” said Dan La Botz, who worked with the No Jail Tax Political Action Committee. “Our group with a small budget and some dedicated volunteers effectively communicated a message that resonated with the Hamilton County voters.”

No Jail Tax PAC spokesperson Mike Shryock said, “People understood that this was a regressive tax to pay for an unnecessary jail. And they understood our argument that we need drug treatment programs, mental health facilities, a night court, and improved administration. We intend to continue that fight for a humanitarian justice system.”

“This is a rejection of the extreme views of Phil Heimlich and Odell Owens,” said Suhith Wickrema, another organizer with No Jail Tax PAC. “The people of Hamilton County were not fooled. They rejected failed public policies. This is a victory for ordinary people over the big money of the rich.”

Michael Patton, also an organizer and spokesperson with No Jail Tax PAC, said, “The fact that the tax issues for children’s services and indigent health care (Issues 13 and 14) both passed shows that the voters will support a levy when it is a comprehensive and effective solution to a problem, unlike the jail tax levy of Issue 12.”

“Those of us who worked on No Jail Tax PAC” said Linda Newman, another campaigner with No Jail Tax PAC, “intend to continue to work together to take on other issues of concern to Cincinnati and Hamilton County voters, and to offer them an independent and progressive alternative.”

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