



press release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PBS 45 & 49's *Know the Issues* helps voters sort through state ballot issues

KENT, Ohio — Oct. 27, 2005 — PBS 45 & 49 offers the community two easy ways to obtain information about the statewide issues that appear on the Nov. 8 general election ballot. The station will air **Know the Issues**, an hour-long special featuring a panel of news reporters who will interview prominent supporters and opponents of the five issues, on Friday, Nov. 4 at 9:30 p.m. The program repeats on Saturday, Nov. 5 at 2 a.m. and Sunday, Nov. 6 at 3 p.m. In addition, beginning Tuesday, Oct. 25, the PBS 45 & 49 Web site, www.pbs4549.org, includes a link to webcasts that offer a reading of each amendment and statements made in favor and against them.

Vincent Duffy, program director at WKSU-FM/89.7, hosts the panel and is joined by Steve Hoffman, *Akron Beacon Journal* editorial writer, and Paul Kostyu, *Canton Repository* statehouse reporter. Panel discussion will begin with Issue 1, whose purpose is to create jobs and stimulate economic growth in Ohio. Guests presenting opposing viewpoints on the issue are Ohio Lt. Governor Bruce Johnson and Capital University economics professor Robert Lawson.

Next, the panel looks at the four constitutional amendments placed on the ballot by a group called Reform Ohio Now. Issues 2, 3, 4 and 5 are initiatives that the group says will create “common-sense reforms” at the state level. Issue 2 creates an easier process for casting an absentee ballot, Issue 3 restricts election contributions, Issue 4 creates a nonpartisan redistricting commission and Issue 5 restructures how statewide elections are supervised.

Guests who will present opposing viewpoints for these issues are Sen. Marc Dann (D) of Youngstown and Sen. Kevin Coughlin (R) of Cuyahoga Falls.

“We chose to offer these services because of the complexity of the ballot issues facing voters in the Nov. 8 general election,” said Don Freeman, PBS 45 & 49 director of programming. “We hope the program and webcasts will help voters make informed decisions.”

PBS 45 & 49 is owned and operated by Northeastern Educational Television of Ohio, Inc., a private, nonprofit corporation. A trusted community resource, PBS 45 & 49 uses the power of non-commercial television and related services to enrich the lives of people through high-quality programming and educational services that teach, illuminate and inspire.

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