



NEWS RELEASE

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Ohioans vote down Issue 2, side with everyday heroes

WESTERVILLE - Tonight the Ohio Civil Service Employees Association/AFSCME Local 11 thanked Ohio voters for their historic and overwhelming support of collective bargaining rights for everyday heroes including **correction officers, highway workers, public health workers, tradesmen and women, administrative staff and other members of Ohio's largest state employees' union.**

"We want to thank the voters of Ohio who used their citizen's veto to send a message that this extreme legislation was simply out of touch with the majority of Ohioans," said **OCSEA President Christopher Mabe.** "Most Ohioans believe that government runs best when front-line workers have a seat at the table. Tonight, they gave us our seat back," said Mabe. "Now we need to move forward with a positive, constructive agenda."

Issue 2 was defeated 63%-37%. The vote indicates Ohioans not only support public employees but they also understand that they are problem solvers. In fact, OCSEA saved the state over \$350 million by taking furlough days and health care concessions during the current economic downturn. Public workers around the state have saved more than \$1 billion in sacrifices in the last three years.

Jim Adkins, a plumber at the Ohio Reformatory for Women, who gathered 2,000 signatures to get Issue 2 on the ballot, said it didn't have to be this way. "Ohio's public workers have spent the last 27 years working with the state and local elected officials to solve Ohio's problems. This repeal will allow us to continue that work and allow lawmakers to get down to the real problems of this state, like creating jobs."

"This is not only a victory for me and the vulnerable citizens I care for, it's a victory for all Ohioans," said **Jeanna Campolo, a direct care worker at the Mount Vernon Developmental Center for the developmentally disabled.** "This was always about the middle class," said Campolo. "In Ohio and around the country, the solution to budget crises lies not in bickering or flawed laws that tear each other down and tear our state apart, but in coming together to protect each other and to solve problems."

OCSEA/AFSCME Local 11 is a proud partner of We Are Ohio a citizen-driven, community-based, bipartisan coalition that came together to stop Senate Bill 5, the unfair and unsafe law that would have cost our local communities jobs.

OCSEA represents approximately 34,000 public employees who work in a wide range of security, regulatory, administrative, direct care, maintenance, customer service and other positions. For more information, contact Sally Meckling, 614-865-2602 or 614-404-3881 (cell).