



News Release

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Community Solutions endorses ISSUE 6 County Charter Campaign

(Cleveland, OH) – Staying true to its core mission to advocate for change that benefits everyone in our region, The Center for Community Solutions has announced its endorsement of Issue 6, the Cuyahoga County Charter on the November ballot. Community Solutions is urging supporters, health and social service partners, and the general public to vote yes on Issue 6.

With its focus on effective delivery of health and social services, Community Solutions, a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization, believes Issue 6 has the potential to improve the effectiveness of public spending in these areas. “Currently, there is no office in county government accountable for its overall operation,” said John A. Begala, Community Solutions’ executive director. “The county is a massive, and critically important, operation that is hobbled by its current structure. The challenges of our era require real county government reform—not at some uncertain future date, but soon.

“Issue 6 isn’t perfect, but it is clearly a major leap in the right direction,” added Begala. “A look at the details indicates an understanding by the framers that they might miss a thing or two, and so there is provision for a charter review in two years and periodically thereafter. That in itself would be a welcome new feature of county government. The most important factors in improving county government—public scrutiny and participation, accountability, identifiable leadership, and a focus on economic development to drive growth – are central to Issue 6. It’s a thoughtful, careful move forward for all of us in Cuyahoga County, and that’s why we’re supporting Issue 6.”

A frequent partner with Cuyahoga County on crucial projects over past decades, Community Solutions continues to collaborate with the county. Despite their different view on county reform, two Cuyahoga officials—Commissioner Tim Hagan and James McCafferty, county administrator—are participating in a Community Solutions – sponsored forum on Tuesday, October 27, regarding “Human Services: Best Practices across Ohio.” They will be joined by health and social service leaders from urban counties across Ohio.

“We look forward to continuing our work with the county even as we seek to pass Issue 6,” concluded Begala. “Cuyahoga County has more than a few outstanding officials and employees who have done a lot of good for people who really need the help. But their efforts are compromised by a structure of government that makes it impossible for them to do their best work.”

The Center for Community Solutions is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization focused on policy and system reform. It provides strategic leadership to improve targeted health, social, and economic conditions. Established in 1913, it is a United Way agency.

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