

LET'S KEEP CLEVELAND STRONG

Please VOTE YES on Issue 7

Nearly 25 years ago, voters chose to invest in new public-owned sports facilities through a pennies-per-purchase tax on alcohol and tobacco. These sports facilities have transformed downtown Cleveland.

This May, Cuyahoga County voters can fund much-needed major repairs to keep our sports venues “major league” by Voting YES on Issue 7 to extend – NOT INCREASE – Cuyahoga County’s minimal cigarettes and alcohol tax.

CONTINUE A Partnership That Works For ALL OF US

We entered into a partnership with Cleveland’s teams on our facilities. Both the public and the teams benefit from them and we share with the teams a legal responsibility to take care of them.

Cleveland’s teams have paid nearly 100% of the cost of maintaining and operating our sports facilities since they opened, including the portion the public was supposed to pay. The Indians and Cavs agreed to renegotiated leases that have saved the public tens of millions of dollars and that are considered among the most “public friendly” leases in the country. Under these leases the teams will continue to pay for the majority of the costs of maintaining and operating our sports facilities.

MAINTAIN Cleveland’s Competitive Advantage

Only 15 major US cities have major league baseball, basketball and football teams. Cleveland is one of them. Our sports venues help make Cleveland a Major League City.

- Our sports venues host more than 300 games and shows each year. This boosts our image and helps us compete for business.
- Having state-of-the-art facilities also helps Cleveland compete with other cities for major concerts and events.

PROTECT A Valuable Investment And Prolong Its Benefits

Progressive Field, Quicken Loans Arena and First Energy Stadium have:

- Attracted 75 million visitors to downtown Cleveland
- Stimulated \$5 billion in economic activity
- Generated more than \$400 million in local tax revenue that pay for critical city and county services
- Sustained thousands of family-supporting jobs
- Supported \$700 million in development in the neighborhood around the Gateway complex, including 5 hotels, 15 residential buildings, and 60 restaurants and eateries.

KEEP What We Pay The Same

Issue 7 will NOT RAISE TAXES. What we pay for cigarettes and alcohol won’t increase. Voting YES on Issue 7 will keep things as they have been for nearly 25 years, with residents, tourists, and visitors to Cuyahoga County paying about a penny and half for a bottle of beer, a penny for a glass of wine and less than a nickel for a pack of cigarettes.

AVOID Putting Other Services At Risk

After 20-years of heavy use and exposure to Cleveland weather, just like with a home, our sports facilities are going to need some major repairs – like replacing the roof on The Q.

Under the leases with the teams, major capital repairs are the public’s legal responsibility and we need to pay our bills. If Issue 7 fails, the city and county would still have to pay for repairs and would have to make deep cuts in critical services to replace lost cigarette and alcohol tax revenue.

Join us at www.KeepClevelandStrong.org

Paid for by the Coalition for Greater Cleveland’s Future, Mary Grace Staph, Treasurer, 812 Huron Rd., Suite 890 Cleveland, OH 44115