

RESOLUTION G2025-33

**RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF HOUSE BILL 96
REGARDING LOCAL HOST COMMUNITY TAX REVENUE FROM
ADULT USE CANNABIS SALES**

WHEREAS, on November 7th, 2023, Ohio voters approved State Issue 2, the Regulate Marijuana Like Alcohol Initiative, to legalize adult use marijuana; and

WHEREAS, State Issue 2 was passed with overwhelming support from voters in Hamilton County's 49 jurisdictions, approved by 57% of voters statewide and 66% of voters in Hamilton County; and

WHEREAS, the adult use cannabis tax is 10% and is levied on the sale of cannabis by dispensaries to consumers; and

WHEREAS, Ohio Revised Code Section 3780.23 states that 36% of the adult use cannabis tax is distributed into the Host Community Cannabis fund to benefit municipal corporations or townships with adult use dispensaries; and

WHEREAS, in keeping with the will of our constituents, the Symmes Township Board of Trustees permitted one dispensary to locate within our community with the expectation that we would receive significant funds in host community fees annually.

WHEREAS, House Bill 96, introduced in the Ohio House in February 2025, contains a provision that repeals the Host Community Cannabis fund and redirects all revenue from the adult use cannabis tax to other funds, in direct contradiction of State Issue 2; and

WHEREAS, local jurisdictions have suffered from reductions to their Local Government Funds due to changes in its formula, the elimination of the Public Utility Tax, and redirection of the Commercial Activity Tax; and

WHEREAS, local jurisdictions rely on revenue from the host community cannabis fund to support their general funds and lessen the burden on tax paying residents when levying taxes; and

WHEREAS, taxpayers and local government officials who chose to allow dispensaries in their communities did so with the understanding that they would receive a portion of the tax dollars generated from marijuana sales;

WHEREAS, the elimination of the host community cannabis fund would negatively impact Symmes Township, forcing us to become more reliant on revenue sources that are already overwhelmed, such as property tax revenue.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of Symmes Township, Hamilton County, Ohio:

Section 1. That the Board of Trustees of Symmes Township, Hamilton County, Ohio, opposes the portions of House Bill 96 that would eliminate the Host Community Cannabis fund and encourages members of the Ohio General Assembly to respect the ballot language of State Issue 2 as passed.

Section 2. That the Fiscal Officer of the Township of this Board is directed to certify copies of this resolution the members of the General Assembly representing the constituents of Symmes Township, Hamilton County, Ohio.

Section 3. That all formal actions of this Board concerning and relating to the passage of this resolution were taken in open meetings of this Board, and that all deliberations of this Board and any of its committees that resulted in such formal actions were taken in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements, including (without limitation) Ohio Revised Code §121.22, except as otherwise permitted thereby.

Section 4. That this Resolution shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

ADOPTED APRIL 1, 2025 – RESOLUTION G2025-33

Vote Record: MS. LEIS _____ MR. BECK _____ MR. BRYANT _____

BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

Jodie L. Leis, President

Philip J. Beck, Vice-President

Kenneth N. Bryant, Trustee

ATTEST:

Joseph C. Grossi, Fiscal Officer

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Jeff Forbes, Law Director