

CUYAHOGA COUNTY VOTERS PUT REFORM MEASURE ON BALLOT

July 20, 2009 – Cleveland -- The Cuyahoga County Board of Elections today determined that residents will have the opportunity to vote for the reform of county government in November after determining that there are enough valid signatures on petitions calling for the ballot issue.

Supporters of the reform measure – which would replace the three county commissioners with a single executive and an 11-member council – said it is obvious that county voters are interested in reform.

The elections board said today that 45,776 signatures on petitions calling for the ballot issue have been deemed to be valid.

"We look forward to an honest and inclusive debate with all County residents over the next 100 days about the reform effort and how it would make our county government more efficient and more responsive," supporters of the effort said in a joint statement today. "We believe that voters think change is long overdue."

The county reform proposal calls for a special focus on job creation and accountability by county officials, eliminating many inefficient, "business as usual" practices that now exist in our existing, outdated system. With a clearly defined executive and legislative branch (the three commissioners now serve as both), issues will get a healthier airing. Many elected offices will be eliminated and combined, creating instant efficiencies.

A similar form of county government has existed for years in Summit County.

The voters of Cuyahoga County have spoken – they want a county reform issue on the November ballot.