Third time's a charm: After typo, independent redistricting amendment cleared by AG

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COLUMBUS, Ohio – Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost once again greenlit a proposed constitutional amendment to create an independent redistricting system in Ohio controlled by citizens and not politicians.

From there, the amendment goes to a GOP controlled panel before organizers begin to gather the roughly 413,000 signatures required to place the measure on the November 2024 ballot.

Both Yost and the Ballot Board have previously approved the amendment. Organizers late last month noticed a typographical error in the language summarizing the amendment's effects that would be shown to voters on the ballot. Chris Davey, a spokesperson for lead organizing entity Citizens Not Politicians, called the matter a "minor setback."

The proposed constitutional amendment would create a 15-member Ohio Citizens Redistricting Commission made up equally of Democrats, Republicans and voters who are not affiliated with any party. It would replace a seven-member panel of partisan, elected officials who oversee the process.

Former politicians, party officials and lobbyists would also not be allowed on the commission. The proposal would make it unconstitutional to draw voting districts that discriminate against or favor any political party or politician. It also would require the commission to operate under an open and independent process.

Should the organizers gather enough valid signatures, the measure goes to the voters for a simple majority up-or-down vote.