

Ohio Issue 2: Bond measure to fund roads, other infrastructure projects passes easily

Ohio voters overwhelmingly support bond measure that pays for local roads, bridges and other infrastructure projects

**By Jessie Balmert
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Ohio voters approved the [Issue 2 bond measure](#) on May 6 to pay for local roads, bridges and other infrastructure projects, increasing the spending cap to \$2.5 billion over 10 years.

The issue was winning big with nearly 68% of the statewide vote, according to unofficial results from the Ohio Secretary of State.

With Issue 2's approval, Ohio will be able to issue general obligations bonds up to \$250 million annually, an increase from the current \$200 million per year. Ohioans first voted for the program as a lawmaker-backed constitutional amendment in 1987 and have since renewed it four times.

"With this vote, Ohioans have opted to invest in our state for years to come by approving funds that will repair roads, bridges, sewers, water lines and other vital public services in each of our unique counties, Ohio Chamber of Commerce President Steve Stivers said in a statement.

Municipalities, counties, townships and other governmental entities can apply for this money to build roads, bridges, sewage treatment systems, water supply systems, landfills and stormwater and sanitary collection systems. [A group of local officials selects which projects will receive money](#), and the [Ohio Public Works Commission](#) administers the program.

"Ohioans understand that our local roads and bridges and other basic infrastructure need ongoing improvement," Sam Rossi, spokesperson of the Ohio Communities Coalition that backed Issue 2, said in a statement.

Since its inception, the State Capital Improvement Program (SCIP) has paid for more than 19,000 infrastructure improvements.

The money cannot be used to pay for a new Cleveland Browns' stadium in the suburb of Brook Park. Ohio lawmakers are considering that pitch in their two-year budget, which must be finished by the end of June.

The measure passed easily with support from the Ohio AFL-CIO, Ohio Chamber of Commerce and groups representing cities, villages, counties and townships. There was no organized opposition to extending the bond program.