

SAVE THE DATE

Thursday, March 1, 2018

9:30 a.m.

4th District Court of Appeals

ATHENS COUNTY COURT HOUSE

COME SUPPORT OUR LEGAL TEAM IN THE COURTROOM

**RALLY OUTSIDE THE COURT HOUSE AT 9:00 a.m. to SHOW
SUPPORT FOR OUR RIGHT TO SELF-GOVERN AND THE RIGHT TO
VOTE ON THE ATHENS COUNTY CHARTER**

1. The Ohio Constitution, Article I, Section 2 declares that “All political power is inherent in the people. Government is instituted for their equal protection and benefit, and they have the right to alter, reform, or abolish the same, whenever they may deem it necessary” The Constitution secures the peoples’ right to vote on the Charter. It is our way of asserting Article I, Section 2 and Article X, Section 3.
2. On the contrary, the Athens County Board of Elections has claimed unfettered authority to judge the constitutionality and legality of our proposed Charter before the people have voted. Their “legal” argument is called: **The Doctrine of Avoidance of the Constitution**. This “doctrine” appears nowhere in the constitution or laws of Ohio, but was made up by the government and is used to deny the people their constitutional rights, while protecting the “rights” of corporations.
3. Over the past three years, all three branches of government have embraced this bogus “doctrine” to deny the people their right to vote on the proposed County Charter.
 - a. The legislature passed HB 463 giving unfettered authority to the executive branch to judge the legality and constitutionality of citizen Charter initiative petitions.
 - b. The Secretary of State channeled many bogus arguments to the Board of Elections.
 - c. The Ohio courts have upheld the “duty” of the (unelected) Board of Elections to deny to the people the right to vote on the Charter. Further questionable technicalities were introduced by the Ohio Supreme Court in accord with the wishes of the oil and gas industry.

Meanwhile:

- *600,000 gallons of toxic fracking wastes are being dumped in Athens County every day*
- *The Ohio legislature is crafting a law to legalize the use of “brine” wastes from oil and gas production for de-icing and dust control on highways, county roads and city sidewalks*
- *The same legislature is crafting another law making it impossible for citizens to propose state-wide initiatives*

“WE THE PEOPLE” AND “DEMOCRACY” ARE MERE WORDS ON PAPER UNLESS WE MAKE THEM REAL. COME JOIN US ON MARCH 1 TO SHOW THE COURT THAT WE BELIEVE THESE WORDS.

This event is co-sponsored by *Democracy Over Corporations* and the *Ohio Community Rights Network*.