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## **The Importance of Issue 1 for the August 8<sup>th</sup> Special Election**

July 20, 2023

Dear Father/Deacon:

As many of us are aware, we are quickly approaching the Special Election, which will be held on August 8<sup>th</sup>. This election will determine the future of potential amendments in our State's Constitution.

Of greatest concern is Issue 1, which proposes to increase the threshold for any proposed amendment to the Constitution from a simple majority of 50% plus one to at least a 60% majority vote in order to pass. Therefore, a *yes* vote on Issue 1 will make it more difficult to pass any future amendment to the Constitution of Ohio, including the November's ballot initiative which seeks an abortion rights constitutional amendment expanding and enshrining abortion at the expense of protections of pre-born children and women.

A *no* vote on the Issue will maintain the current threshold making it easier to pass an amendment in Ohio's Constitution, including the one coming this November on the Abortion Expansion Amendment.

Please encourage our faithful to go out and vote, and to recognize the gravity of such an election especially when it comes to the dignity of human life. With prayerful best wishes, and entrusting you to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I remain,

Fraternally yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Jeffrey M. Monforton  
Bishop of Steubenville