

**COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:**

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*County Commission of Barbour County, West Virginia*

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**Official Statement**

**Proposed Constitutional Amendment 2  
The Property Tax Modernization Amendment**

**Preamble:** During the 2022 General Election, West Virginians will be asked to vote on Amendment 2, one of the most substantial changes to West Virginia's Constitution in nearly 100 years. It is not the place of the Barbour County Commission to tell registered voters how to vote on this issue. However, the County Commission has a duty pursuant to Article IX, § 11, of the West Virginia Constitution to manage the police and fiscal affairs of Barbour County and, therefore, must inform the public of the potentially devastating and far-reaching impacts that Amendment 2 could have on public safety and local government services of Barbour County.

**WHEREAS,** the Barbour County Commission finds that the passage of Amendment 2 will cause removal of constitutional protection that provides critical funding for law enforcement, fire protection, emergency medical services, and public education; and,

**WHEREAS,** the Commission finds that more than five hundred million dollars in necessary funding for first responders, county and city services, and schools in all 55 counties could be stripped away and placed at risk, resulting in fewer police officers, firefighters, emergency responders, and teachers and school personnel; and,

**WHEREAS,** the Commission finds there is no legislative plan for Amendment 2, as a real plan to implement the serious changes contemplated by Amendment 2 requires the passage of legislation by the House and Senate. Here, there is no consensus, no agreement, and no clear plan that the voters can read and understand before they cast their vote; and,


**WHEREAS,** the Commission finds that any legislative plan to provide revenue replacement to local government and schools must consider the up and down history of West Virginia's finances and that State revenues are prone to time of boom or bust, and further must consider the forthcoming healthcare cost crisis that is facing all local government; and,

**WHEREAS,** the Commission finds that it is the residents of the State of West Virginia, including the hardworking residents of Barbour County, that will ultimately pay for the significant corporate tax cuts contemplated by Amendment 2 and will do so through new sales taxes or fees; and,

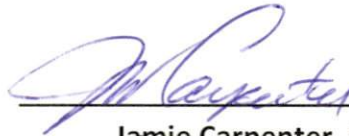
**WHEREAS**, the Commission finds that as we soon approach the General Election, the voters deserve a final, codified, and agreed to legislative plan for Amendment 2, not a “work-in-progress” proposal that, if implemented, could devastate and defund public safety and public education in all 55 counties in West Virginia; and,

**NOW, THEREFORE** be it resolved that the Barbour County Commission, for the reasons above, shall not offer support to Amendment 2 due to the real and serious risks it poses to public safety and public education.


**Dated this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of October, 2022**



Susie Cvechko, President



Jamie Carpenter, Commissioner



David Strait, Commissioner