

# There's Nothing Brave About Raising Taxes it's what government does best!

**By Charlie Norman**  
**Cheviot City Councilman**

Once again, Hamilton County voters are being assailed with another unnecessary tax increase, this time purportedly for criminal justice purposes. But does this plan really address our criminal justice and corrections needs, or is it merely a poorly disguised attempt to expand County government on the taxpayers' backs. The Issue 27 plan, if enacted, will spend over a billion dollars to add a disproportionately small amount of new jail space – a mere 384 beds. At the same time, it neglects our expert jail consultant's advice to first address the primary process problems that contribute to the jail overcrowding problem.

On top of all of that, we're told that the Commission majority who voted to unilaterally impose this mammoth tax are "brave and courageous" for making the hard choice to raise taxes. Let's be clear, there's nothing brave about raising taxes – it's what government does best. And there's particularly nothing brave about picking the taxpayer's pocket while he isn't looking by trying to do it without a public vote. Not only is this line of reasoning simply wrong, it is insulting to the hard-working taxpayers of this County who see more and more of their money taken away to cover government's ever-expanding appetite.

We ought to expect more out of our elected leaders. When we come against tough times we should explore every avenue at our disposal before we ask the voters for more. We need to demand that they come up with common-sense solutions that adequately address our problems without massive tax increases. The current tax plan fails miserably to do so. I urge all of you to vote NO on Issue 27 and encourage you to spread the word to your friends, families, and neighbors about this ineffective, super-sized tax increase.