

**Statement on State Issues One and Two  
Public School Funding**

**April 6, 1998**

On May 5, 1998 Ohio voters will be asked to approve two statewide ballot issues.

**Issue 1** authorizes the sale of general obligation bonds to raise money for badly needed school repairs and construction.

**Issue 2** raises the state sales tax by one penny, from 5 cents to 6 cents on the dollar. The money raised by the extra penny will provide half a billion dollars a year in new funding for schools and a 15 percent reduction in property taxes for every homeowner up to a maximum of \$275.

Many persons have asked if the Catholic bishops have taken a position on these issues. In response to those who have asked, we offer the following:

The health of the public schools is important for the health of our society. The Supreme Court of Ohio has concluded that Ohio's public school financing scheme must undergo a complete systematic overhaul.

Issues One and Two on the May ballot are an attempt by the Ohio General Assembly to respond to the Court's decision. While we do not believe that Issues One and Two solve all the problems and answer every question, we believe that they are a step in the right direction.

For that reason, we, the Catholic bishops of Ohio, support Issues One and Two. We encourage others to do likewise.