

## **May Primary - Ballot Issue: Twp. Electric Aggregation**

Lake Township officials have placed a ballot issue on the May 2010 Primary seeking voter approval to pursue an opt-out electric aggregation program. More than 200 similar ballot initiatives have passed in communities across Ohio in the past 9 years, most by a wide margin.

The ballot initiative, if approved, would give our Trustees the authority but not the obligation, to pursue an electric program. The Township, working through its consultant, Independent Energy Consultants, would first become certified as a Governmental Aggregator with the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio and then seek electric supply offers. Prior to certification, the Township would hold 2 public hearings to explain the Plan of Operations and Governance that would be used to administer the program.

With “opt-out” aggregation programs all eligible residential and small commercial customers are included in the program unless they decide to opt-out. The participation rate for opt-out programs tends to be very high, and because of this, suppliers are able to pass on lower rates.

The ballot initiative and this program are being conducted without using any taxpayer money. The ballot must pass before any further steps can be pursued with an opt-out program. If approved you will be hearing more details about the program as we move forward in the coming months. Participation in the program is purely voluntary. The Township, like others before it, is attempting to leverage the bargaining power of a large buying group to obtain a favorable alternative to the local utility’s electric supply rates. Ohio Edison (electric utility) would continue to deliver your electricity, maintain their distribution system, read your meter, issue your bill, etc.

We are optimistic that our program may be able to guarantee savings versus the Ohio Edison rates. Our program will present another valuable option for our residents and small businesses in their attempts to manage their energy costs. State legislators deregulated Ohio’s natural gas and electric markets in 2001 thereby enabling residents to choose their gas and/or electric suppliers. Most of the customer switching and savings have come through Governmental Aggregation programs similar to what Lake Township is pursuing. To learn more about aggregation programs please visit the Ohio Consumers’ Counsel website [www.pickocc.org](http://www.pickocc.org) or the PUCO’s website [www.puco.ohio.gov](http://www.puco.ohio.gov)