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CONTACT: Bill Teets (614) 466-2382
or Merle Madrid (614) 466-4133

LT. GOVERNOR VISIT TO LIMA FOCUSES ON ECONOMY, ISSUE 1

Lima – Lt. Governor Johnson today joined Lima Mayor David Berger and Mercer County Engineer Jim Wiechart at a press conference to emphasize the importance of the Jobs for Ohio Bond Initiative.

“Through tort reform, tax reform and increased marketing efforts, we are showing the world that Ohio Means Business,” said Johnson, who also serves as state development director. “The next step is to ensure economic development opportunities for all Ohioans by making more investment available for public infrastructure, job ready sites, research, and the development of new technologies.”

According to Johnson, the Jobs for Ohio Bond Initiative, Issue 1 on the November 8 ballot, provides the comprehensive infrastructure necessary for today’s economy. The \$2 billion initiative funds three measures; \$1.35 billion over the next ten years for traditional infrastructure, \$500 million over seven years for technology infrastructure and \$150 million over seven years for the creation of job ready sites. “Without raising taxes, Issue 1 ensures local governments can continue building the roads, bridges and water systems that are important to their community, while allowing the state to build upon a technology infrastructure that will attract good jobs in the knowledge economy,” said Johnson.

In Allen County, the Public Works Commission has provided more than \$21.3 million in funding resulting in \$39 million in projects being constructed, including the widening of Eastown Road on the west side of Lima in order to alleviate capacity problems and reduce accidents.

“It is vital to Mercer County and all of the counties in this region that the public works program be continued,” said Wiechart, who also serves as the District 13 Chairman of the Integrating Committee, which prioritizes projects for public works funding. “Without the passage of Issue 1, local communities will lose precious time and progress in improving our roads and bridges, helping to solve traffic congestion issues and enhancing the deteriorated and deficient infrastructure that has such an important part in helping to make our community a safe, thriving place to live, work and raise a family.”

In addition to being placed on the ballot with overwhelming bipartisan support, Issue 1 has been endorsed by numerous organizations, including the Ohio Chamber of Commerce, the Ohio Farm Bureau, and the Ohio Chapter of the AFL-CIO. Local supporters include Mayor Berger and State Representative John Willamowski.

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