

**MEGAN N. KILGORE**

City Auditor

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Deputy City Auditor

THE CITY OF  
**COLUMBUS**

OFFICE OF MEGAN N. KILGORE,  
CITY AUDITOR

October 18, 2021

Dear fellow citizen,

As Columbus City Auditor, I am entrusted to be the fiduciary for the City. This means I have an obligation to protect public funds and speak up when the integrity of those funds — or the transparent financial processes — are in jeopardy. I take this role very seriously. In my four years as your City Auditor, I have worked tirelessly to preserve our AAA/Aaa/AAA bond ratings and have maintained the City's award-winning commitment to financial transparency. Never have I needed to sound an alarm due to an impending threat from an outside organization, but today I write for that reason.

Issue 7 is an initiative that Columbus voters will find on the November ballot. Issue 7's language contains phrases like "clean energy" and "energy efficiency," but it is critical that residents understand that this is NOT a City-sanctioned program. This initiative was put on the ballot by a for-profit company.

Issue 7 would require the City to move \$87 million out of the General Fund and transfer a large portion to this company's control. All of the processes that make our City's financial management strong — our systems of checks and balances, public budgeting, financial reporting, and our ability to independently audit — would be bypassed.

Contextually, \$87 million is approximately 10% of our General Fund. If Issue 7 passes, City leaders will be forced to make difficult and significant cuts to basic services, including programs like public health, public safety, and parks. This is not a mere warning. Given that the City is already grappling with COVID-19 economic recovery and the effects of remote work on our income tax collections, Issue 7 would unquestionably impact safety and services to citizens.

I cannot be more sincere with my plea that you learn about Issue 7 and its implications. I would be pleased to speak with you should you have further questions.



Megan N. Kilgore  
City Auditor

