Recycling collection is changing in Ravenna

Portage board rejects charter petition

BY MARK SCHUMANN | STAFF WRITER

The Portage County Board of Elections has acted to support of a county charter in Ravenna.

The elections board voted unanimously that the petition did not meet the statutory requirement for establishing an alternative form of government, and thus was not a valid form of petition.

Supporters had hoped to put the issue on the November general election ballot. Green Fletcher, coordinator for the initiative sponsors, said the election board’s decision makes a test on the board’s decision.

That test would be forwarded to the Secretary of State if Fletcher then files a petition for a test on the board's decision. A test on the board's decision would then be forwarded to the Ohio Revised Code, which determines if the petition is valid.

The petitions circulated by the Portage County Rights Group left the form of government mostly unchanged but called for additional powers to restrict the county's ability to do business outside the county.

Fletcher said their first step would be to work with the Ohio Community Rights Net-

work, which helped draft the charter, on the wording of the proposal. In drafting the proposed charter, the Green Fletcher committee notified the attorneys their proposal that the form of government we wanted structurally the same it now has. Our lawyers assured us we could do that.

Fletcher said the elections board's decision was informed by a legal memo Fletcher and the board's statutory responsibilities, a September 2013 Ohio Supreme Court de-