Each election cycle seems to exhibit similar patterns. In addition to the games of politicians bickering and telling “half-truths” (that are actually lies), I have found another pattern: the little man in my head is eager for the day after Election Day to come.

No, I’m not crazy; I just like to joke that there is a little man in my head who stands over in the corner in front of a jukebox with a perpetually-full roll of quarters in his hand. He dials up whatever random tune he wants to hear, so I usually have some rock anthem or another blasting across the speakers of my mind. Every time there is an election, the closer we get to it, the little man starts playing Iron Maiden’s “Run to the Hills.” Come Wednesday, I suspect he’ll start playing Lynyrd Skynyrd’s “Tuesday’s Gone.” Thank goodness! At least we’ll get a momentary reprieve before presidential primaries start up in January or February, leading up to Super Tuesday. Then, it’s a race to November and heaven help us.

For now, though, it’s important for all of us to dial in and make sure to get all the information we can to make the best decisions we can muster; look past the talking points and find the truth between the lines. Unfortunately, we are burdened with cutting through the game-playing and many of us don’t. Candidates and political action committees count on that. They get away with things like pulling a “fast one” to amend the state constitution. Anyone who gets the right number of signatures can do it and we end up with an Ohio Constitution that is partially-written by “Some Dude.” Have you ever met Some Dude? If you know him, would you please clue me in on his qualifications? Last I checked, we entrust important matters to the legislature, which has rigorous filters and processes in place for such things. Do we really want Some Dude getting by with pulling an end-around to avoid the legislature and advance his agenda? Who does Some Dude think he is? I don’t know about you, but I find it offensive that Some Dude can fill the Ohio Constitution with clutter that favors his agenda or vested interest such as, like, oh, I don’t know: a casino.

The Herald ran a story Friday explaining why Some Dude can do this, so please check it out if you missed it. The short end of it is anyone can write a proposal like Issue 3 and the state government doesn’t go over it with a fine-tooth comb before putting it before voters. The government doesn’t even come close to it. I think they should, but the Ohio Supreme Court, I was told, is the culprit that tied certain elected officials’ hands. This should scare about anybody’s shoes off, but that’s the way it is, whether we like it or not. So, it’s up to us to make sure the proposal is legitimate so we aren’t bamboozled.

From what The Herald was told this week, Issue 3 is written in such a way so as to open the

door for all kinds of problems. That part of our election coverage ran Wednesday, if you missed it. A law professor who studied the proposed amendment’s language found some startling things. My little man looked up from his jukebox this week and said “what!?!” Considering this information makes my little man think there’s a snow job going on. State law can’t trump federal law, so what’s the deal? Why bother with Issue 3 at all? If it can’t prevent “Obamacare,” but can do other things, then what’s Some Dude up to?