

Lakewood Schools Emergency Operating Levy ~ Fact Sheet

The Lakewood Local Schools have placed a 9.9 mill Emergency Operating Levy on the May 4 ballot. This levy will generate \$3,656,649 in income for the district over ten years. The money will be used for textbooks, supplies, technology, utilities, buses, salaries, benefits, and maintenance.

LAKEWOOD SCHOOLS ARE "EXCELLENT"

For the sixth consecutive year, Lakewood Schools have been rated Effective or higher by the Ohio Department of Education. The past two years Lakewood has been rated "Excellent." Graduation rates have been steadily rising and have exceeded the state requirement of 90%. The last graduation rate measured was 96.1%.

Academic gains and successes are due to focused goals and processes that have been implemented in the district over the past five years such as:

- Realignment of district students and staff in grades K-5
- Year-long curriculum studies focusing on aligning the curriculum with state standards
- Aligning all district, administrative, and building goals to the District's Ohio Improvement Process (OIP) Plan

WHAT IS THE EMERGENCY OPERATING LEVY?

An emergency operating levy will provide additional funds to the district to sustain current operating standards and avoid an operating deficit. An emergency levy generates a specific dollar amount annually. In order to generate \$3,656,649, the levy will need to be collected at 9.9 mills.

WHY NOW?

This money is needed to replace the loss of tangible personal property tax revenues. Tangible personal property tax revenues were generated from local business inventory values and furniture/equipment values held by a business. House Bill 66 eliminated this tax through a phase out process and has shifted the burden onto the local taxpayers.

WHAT DO WE STAND TO LOSE?

If we do not pass this 9.9 mill levy, we will have to make the following cuts:

- Reduce course offerings to state minimums
- Eliminate staff to state minimums = larger class sizes
- Reduce school day to state minimums (K-6 = 5 hours, 7-12 = 5.5 hours)
- Eliminate all extra-curricular programs
- Eliminate Art, Music, and P.E. at Elementary Schools
- Implement 2 mile walk radius to all schools

HOW HAS THE DISTRICT PREPARED FOR THIS LOST REVENUE?

Over the last 4 years, the district has continued to reduce their operational costs over \$2 million. During this time, the district has consolidated operations, reduced several positions, and identified more efficient operating methods. No additional staff has been added during the last 4 years. Additional staff in the future will be dictated by increased student enrollment. We have been awarded the "Making Your Tax Dollars Count" Award by the state for the last 2 years.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN TO PROPERTY OWNERS?

With the approval of this levy, property taxes will increase approximately \$303 per year, or \$25 per month, for every \$100,000 of property value, as determined by the Licking County Auditor. This increase would start in 2011 and last through 2020. To learn your property's assessed value, call the Licking County Auditor at 740-670-5040 or visit www.lcounty.com/OnTrac.

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED

Volunteers are needed. If you are interested in helping or have questions, please contact:
Jay Gault, Superintendent
Phone: 740-928-5878
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