

OPERATING LEVY FAQ



ON MAY 8,

the Woodridge Local School district will have Issue 5, an 8.19 mill emergency operating levy, on the ballot.

WHY IS THE WOODRIDGE LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BACK ON THE BALLOT FOR AN OPERATING LEVY?

The Woodridge Local School District is committed to fiscal responsibility and being transparent with the use of taxpayers' dollars. The operating levy is needed now for several reasons.

- 1 The state of Ohio's new biennial budget cut funding to Woodridge by 25.9%. These cuts, along with state funding to charter schools, force us to rely more heavily on local tax dollars. The district must make up for the loss of this funding in order to maintain our vision of excellence.
- 2 When Woodridge passed its last operating levy in 2012, we informed the community we'd be back on the ballot for new money in 5-7 years. The way school funding is structured in Ohio means districts have to generate new operating dollars every five years or so. This levy falls in line with that cycle.

How much will the levy generate?

The levy will generate \$4 million per year for the district.

How much will this levy cost taxpayers?

The levy will cost the owner of a \$100,000 home \$286.66 per year; however, the bond issue for Woodridge Middle School will be coming off residents' tax bills in 2018. That will reduce taxes by approximately \$68 per year per \$100,000 home.

Why 8.19 mills?

The Board of Education discussed the recommended millage rate based on the district's five-year forecast to ensure the levy balances the budget.

How effectively is the district managing taxpayer dollars?

The school district has received the Auditor of State award from the State Auditor's Office for the past 16 years for its excellent financial practices. Even with the operating levy, Woodridge will continue to keep a watchful eye on spending.

Woodridge passed a bond issue in 2015. Will funds from the operating levy be used for construction costs?

NO. Dollars from the bond issue cannot be used for operating expenses. Regardless of the bond issue, Woodridge would have been back on the ballot for operating dollars, especially with the funding cuts from the state.

Did the new building increase our expenses, resulting in this levy request?

NO. The new building allowed the district to become more efficient. Again, the funds from the bond issue passed in 2015 can only be used for construction costs. They cannot be used for operating expenses.

What is an operating levy?

An operating levy is a levy for learning. Operating levies provide school districts money to be used for day-to-day expenses such as staff salaries, supplies, heating expenses, transportation, activities and programs. These are the funds that it takes to run and operate schools.

Who do I contact with questions regarding the operating levy?

A community committee has been formed to work on the issues related to the campaign. For questions, please contact Chairman Scott Karlo at 330.945.9486.

What happens if the levy passes?

If the levy passes, Woodridge will be able to maintain most of its programs and services provided to students; however, the district will still make \$1.2 million in budget and service reductions. These will include personnel, purchased services and more due to the levy failure in November 2017.

What happens if the levy fails?

It would be devastating to the Woodridge Local Schools. **If the operating levy does not pass in 2018,**

Woodridge will have to make \$5.6 million in cuts.

The Ohio Department of Education would then place the district into fiscal emergency.

What has the district done to save money?

The district participates in several cooperative purchasing programs designed to save money by working collaboratively with other districts to purchase supplies and materials. We are members of The Ohio Schools Council, which maximizes purchasing power as districts pool resources. Our long-time affiliation with The Six District Educational Compact allows our students to cross district lines to access curriculum and programming not available in our district. These shared services result in significant cost savings while maintaining numerous opportunities for our students.

Where can I find voting information, including timelines, registration information, absentee ballot information, etc.?

Voter registration information for Summit County can be found at www.summitcountyboe.com. You can also call 330.643.5200 or stop by the Board of Elections office at 470 Grant St., Akron, OH 44311.