

LICKING HEIGHTS LOCAL SCHOOLS

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Licking Heights is one of the fastest-growing Ohio school districts in student enrollment, due to rapid economic development and business growth in our area 20 minutes east of Columbus.

Within the last 10 years, our enrollment has surged from 3,000 students to more than 4,500 – a growth rate of 51 percent. The enrollment growth is expected to continue for Licking Heights, with conservative estimates showing our student population increasing to over 6,000 by 2029.

These factors have created the necessity for us to return to the ballot in May 2019. We are seeking a substitute levy by combining two existing emergency levies into one ballot issue. This will result in continued, stable funding for our district with no new taxes for residents.

- What exactly are we voting for?
 - Our Board of Education has taken advantage of a relatively new ballot option for Ohio school districts by placing a “substitute” levy on the May 7, 2019 ballot. This levy will not increase existing property tax payments because it would effectively substitute two existing “emergency” levies that will expire in 2021 and 2023.
 - Emergency levies are fixed-amount levies. Combined, our two existing emergency levies raise \$10.6 million annually – no more, no less. However, a substitute levy allows us to also collect on the growth of new people moving to the community – without increasing the taxes residents and businesses currently pay.
- Will this ballot issue raise my taxes?
 - No. Existing property taxes will stay the same with passage of this levy.
 - As tax abatements roll off and new development occurs, those property owners will pay the same rate others are paying with this levy. This allows us to collect additional funds as growth occurs and new people move to the community.
- If I vote no, will my taxes decrease?
 - No. If the issue is not approved, taxes will not be reduced. This levy will not increase existing property tax payments as it effectively substitutes two existing “emergency” levies. Without the passage of the “substitute,” the previous levies would remain in place until they expire in 2021 and 2023.
- Is this levy to pay for the new high school?
 - No. The previous bond issue was to fund the construction for the new high school.
- What will happen to the homestead tax exemption applied to the existing emergency levies?
 - The substitute levy will keep both the 10% rollback and the 2.5% exemption.
- What is the duration of this levy?
 - The Board of Education decided a 10-year substitute levy makes the most sense for the community, rather than a continuing levy. The two existing emergency levies would end immediately with voter approval of the substitute levy – there would be no overlap in collections.