Substitute Levy

Frequently Asked Questions

The Pike Delta Local School District will have a 5.31 mill substitute levy on the March 19th, 2024 primary election ballot. Below are answers to a few frequently asked questions.

**What is a tax levy substituting for an existing levy?**

A tax levy substituting an existing levy would not be a new tax to the community. Essentially, the substitute emergency levy actually replaces the original substitute levy that is set to expire in December of 2024. It is important to remember that the substitution of the substitute levy is “Not a New Tax” and therefore, will not raise your taxes based on current valuations. It simply “substitutes” or replaces the current 6.7 mill 5-year emergency levy and would continue at the collection rate already in place. The substitute levy will allow the District to ask for continuous dollars as long as we do not ask for a collection value higher than the existing levy in place. Unlike other operating issues, a substitute levy would allow the Pike Delta York Local Schools to receive additional revenue from new construction (residential and commercial) within district boundaries, which has not been previously taxed, without an increase in the collection rate.

**Why a substitute levy and not a simple renewal?**

This substitute emergency levy allows the district to collect additional revenue on new construction from homes and businesses. It also allows us to capture the growth of commercial properties that are currently abated for tax incentive purposes. The additional revenue allows for revenue growth every year by increasing the tax base. It is important to note that this ***does not increase*** the existing taxpayers’ obligation.

**What is the amount of the current levy and when will it expire?**

The amount of the current 5-year, 6.7 mill emergency levy collects approximately $ 1.32 million dollars and is set to expire on **December 31, 2024.**

**How much will the substitute levy cost taxpayers?**

This levy is not a new tax. The 6.7 mill emergency levy, originally approved by the community in November of 2018, will be expiring on December 31, 2024. The 5.31 mill substitute levy will substitute the current emergency levy and **will not** cost taxpayers additional dollars based on current valuations. Should the value on your home remain the same, the tax for this levy would actually go down due to the overall valuation growth throughout the district. For a homeowner of a house with a value of $100,000 this levy would cost you $15.49 per month, which is less than the current levy. The previous tax on a $ 100,000 home ran $ 19.54 based on the 6.7 mills.

**How much will the substitute levy generate?**

The substitute levy will generate $ 1,345 million for the district, which is the same collection rate of the current 6.7 mill 5-year emergency levy currently in place that will expire December 31, 2024. This equates to about 7.7% of the current revenue for the district.

**How long will the substitute levy be in effect?**

The 5.31 mill substitute levy will be for a five-year period of time.

**What are the advantages of the substitute levy?**

A substitute levy helps to create financial stability for the district and its students.  This will allow the district to maintain current programming and services and implement new programming without increasing taxes for current homeowners based on current valuations.

**Have Other Districts Done This?**

Approximately sixty-five (65) districts in Ohio have moved forward with substitute emergency levies for three main reasons: modernize their tax structure, take full advantage of the new growth within their district and to try and reduce the need to place levy issues on the ballot.

**How Will the Money Be Spent?**

Dollars generated from the levy, which amounts to approximately 7.7% of the district’s current general fund operating revenue, will continue to fund our day-to-day operational expenses such as classroom supplies, utilities, bus fuel, technology and personnel.

**What will happen if the levy is not approved in March?**

Budget reductions would be more than likely**.** Living within our means is a strong philosophy of this administration and Board of Education. Projections from the County Auditor have indicated a potential growth in the district’s real estate collection as a result of increased valuations. While this would be a welcomed benefit to an already strained and somewhat stagnant revenue stream, pending legislative proposals could have an impact on future revenue resulting in potential budget reductions.

**How will the Issue Appear on the Ballot?**

**PROPOSED TAX LEVY (SUBSTITUTE)**

**PIKE DELTA YORK LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage.

Shall a tax levy substituting for an existing levy be imposed by the Pike-Delta-York Local School District, Fulton County, Ohio for the purpose of **providing for the necessary requirements of the school district** in the initial sum of $1,345,712, and a levy of taxes be made outside of the ten-mill limitation estimated by the county auditor to require 5.31 mills for each one dollar of valuation, which amounts to $186.00 for each one hundred dollars of valuation for the initial year of the tax, for a period of five years, commencing in 2024, first due in calendar year 2025, with the sum of such tax to increase **only if and as new land or real property improvements not previously taxed by the school district are added to its tax list?**