

2017 Ballot Issue

The Board of Trustees voted to declare the necessity for an additional tax levy for general operating funds to be placed on the ballot in for November 7, 2017 for voter consideration. The Board will sponsor public forums in the fall to enable residents to ask questions about the levy, proposed use of funds and overall and financial condition of the Township.

Why is Hanover Township seeking an increase in taxes?

Hanover Township was negatively impacted by the recession resulting in property values dropping over time. In addition, the State of Ohio significantly cut funding through the Local Government Fund (Hanover's portion cut by 53%) issued to Townships and eliminated the Estate Tax source of revenue for the public sector. The result has been a loss of revenue estimated to total over \$250,000 annually for the last few years. Just to stay even with where the Township was in 2011, a tax increase is necessary. The current operating budget is the lowest since before 2010.

With decreasing revenues and needed equipment replacements as well as required maintenance of facilities, the Township does not have sufficient revenues to keep the same service level to residents. There is no dedicated source of revenue for law enforcement services, park services, local match for grant funding and operation of the Community Center.

The Township is responsible for managing 8 funds, 7 of which are restricted by law to a designated category or specific use. The General Fund, for which the levy is being sought is the only flexible fund that can be used to fill voids wherever they would occur in Township operations.

What will be funded by the 1.75 General Operating levy tax?

The General Fund has provided support for many aspects of township operations over the years. The fund has been used to fund law enforcement services, planning, park operations, building maintenance, general equipment purchases, administration and Community Center operations. The new 1.75 mill proposed levy will address these items. The Board of Trustees in consultation with the Township Departments has established the following objectives and priorities for the General Operating Levy Funds if approved commencing in 2017:

- 1) To maintain the level of law enforcement assigned to Hanover Township by the Butler County Sheriff's Office in serving the needs of residents as identified in citizen surveys over the past 12 years. Two deputies are assigned and currently work 1st and 2nd shifts. Current General Fund revenue has dropped due to cuts in state funding and property devaluations making it difficult to continue this service.
- 2) To create a funding source within the General Fund to provide a revenue source to address park maintenance and to make necessary safety and sanitary improvements to the park over the next five years that cannot be approved or budgeted under current circumstances.

- 3) To provide funds to be used as matching funds to obtain Federal and State grants for projects within the Township. For every dollar put in from local funds \$1.00 to \$2.50 can be brought into the Township.
- 4) To provide for the ongoing proper maintenance of the Community Center for use by the community including drainage improvements and paving.
- 5) To provide assistance to the Road Department for necessary equipment purchases for which there are no funds available.

What specifically is the ballot language for the General Operating Levy?

PROPOSED TAX LEVY (ADDITIONAL)

HANOVER TOWNSHIP

A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage.

An additional tax for the benefit of Hanover Township for the purpose of current expenses at a rate not exceeding one and seventy-five hundredths (1.75) mills for each one dollar of valuation, which amounts to seventeen and five-tenths cents (\$0.175) for each one hundred dollars of valuation, for a period of five (5) years, commencing in 2017, first due in calendar year 2018.

FOR THE TAX LEVY

AGAINST THE TAX LEVY