

## **MAY PRIMARY ELECTION - FOCUS ON ISSUES**

**The League of Women Voters will not print a Voter Guide for the May Primary. However, we are publishing this document on our website to give the entities that have levies on the ballot the opportunity to inform their public. The League does not support any levies but we take seriously our responsibility to inform the public. The ballot language for each entity is printed first, followed by information provided by the respective school or organization.**

### **Allen County RTA**

PROPOSED SALES AND USE TAX  
ALLEN COUNTY REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY  
A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage

Shall a sales and use tax be levied for all transit purposes of the Allen County Regional Transit Authority (ACRTA) at a rate not exceeding 0.1% for a period of 10 years?

YES

NO

**The Allen County RTA levy is for a small sales tax increase of one-tenth of one percent for ten years. It is a new levy which is expected to generate approximately \$1.4 million for operations.**

**Allen County RTA is requesting the sales tax increase because over the past 5 years the federal and state grants on which they rely have decreased by 30% even as the need for services in Allen County continues to increase.. That funding decrease has forced RTA to cut services; evening and weekend services and three routes. The sales tax will give the RTA a reliable, sustainable source of funding.**

**Those funds will be used to reinstate cut services and routes as well as meet the growing demand from elderly residents and persons with disabilities which makes up 47% of the total RTA ridership.**

**The additional sales tax of one-tenth of one percent is equal to 2 cents on a \$20 purchase or 5 cents on a \$50 purchase. Because it is a sales tax, it does not impact property or income tax and does not affect the cost of rent, utilities or groceries.**

**In 2018 - RTA provided 46,671 transports for elderly residents and persons with disabilities from every corner of the county. This is a growing population and that increases the need for services. Currently - RTA provides 1,475 transports a month for special needs students from 5 school districts: Shawnee, Elida, Lima City, Bath and Bluffton. And RTA is also currently providing over 1,000 rides a month for employees to their place of work. In 2017, before the cuts, RTA provided nearly 400,000 rides including 1,000 wheel chair rides a month.**

## **Allen East School District**

PROPOSED TAX LEVY (RENEWAL)  
ALLEN EAST LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage

A renewal of a tax for the benefit of Allen East Local School District for the purpose of general permanent improvements at a rate not exceeding 2.75 mills for each one dollar of valuation, which amounts to \$0.275 for each one hundred dollars of valuation, for a continuing period of time, commencing in 2019, first due in calendar year 2020.

FOR THE TAX LEVY  
AGAINST THE TAX LEVY

**Our levy is a renewal levy that will generate approximately \$178,000 annually. We primarily use the permanent improvement levy to purchase school buses and maintain our parking lots. We will also do other projects and improvements to maintain the grounds as funds are available. This renewal levy costs our taxpayers less than \$96 for every \$100,000 in market valuation. It is a renewal with no new millage**

## **Bath Township**

PROPOSED TAX LEVY (RENEWAL)  
BATH TOWNSHIP

A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage

A renewal of a tax for the benefit of Bath Township for the purpose of providing and maintaining fire apparatus, appliances, buildings, or sites therefor, or sources of water supply and materials therefor, or the establishment and maintenance of the lines of fire alarm telegraph, or the payment of permanent, part-time, or volunteer firefighters or firefighting companies to operate the same, including the payment of the firefighter employers' contribution required under section 742.34 of the Revised Code, or the purchase of ambulance equipment, or the provision of ambulance, paramedic, or other emergency medical services operated by a fire department or firefighting company, at a rate not exceeding 3 mills for each one dollar of valuation, which amounts to \$0.30 for each one hundred dollars of valuation, for 5 years, commencing in 2019, first due in calendar year 2020.

FOR THE TAX LEVY  
AGAINST THE TAX LEVY

**The Bath Twp. Fire Department 3.0 mill levy renewal, which is on the ballot May 7, 2019, provides approximately 80% of the department's total operating budget. This levy was first approved by voters in 2004, and was renewed in 2009, and 2015. This funding is used for personnel, apparatus, equipment, maintenance, supplies, facilities, and all other operations of the department. This levy is a renewal only with no additional millage. Voters will not see a change in the amount of tax they have been paying for fire department services. Passage of this levy is vital to maintaining the high levels of Fire and EMS protection on which the residents of Bath Township expect. This is not a new tax.**

**Bluffton Exempted Village School District**

PROPOSED INCOME TAX (RENEWAL)  
BLUFFTON EXEMPTED VILLAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage

Shall an annual income tax of 0.5% on the school district income of individuals and of estates be imposed by the Bluffton Exempted Village School District, to renew an income tax expiring at the end of 2019, for 3 years, beginning January 1, 2020, for the purpose of permanent improvements?

FOR THE TAX  
AGAINST THE TAX

On May 7, 2019, The Bluffton Exempted Village School District will ask for your continued support of two renewal issues on the ballot. One renewal of 4.244 mills for operating expenses was first passed in 1999; the other renewal, a 0.5% income tax for permanent improvements, was first passed in 2007.

The one renewal levy on the May 7, 2019, ballot for 4.244 mills for 5 years was renewed in May 2014 at 4.9 mills and first passed in 1999. This is not a new tax.

Money from the levy is placed in the general fund to be used for operating expenses. These funds allow our school system to continue its legacy of excellence. Bluffton Exempted Village Schools' performance index ranks in the top 6% of all districts in the state; expenditures per pupil, however, are more than \$2900 less than the state average.

**Bluffton Exempted Village School District**

**PROPOSED TAX LEVY (RENEWAL)**  
**BLUFFTON EXEMPTED VILLAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage**

Shall a levy renewing an existing levy be imposed by the Bluffton Exempted Village School District for the purpose of avoiding an operating deficit in the sum of \$714,392 and a levy of taxes to be made outside of the ten-mill limitation estimated by the county auditor to average 4.244 mills for each one dollar of valuation, which amounts to \$0.4244 for each one hundred dollars of valuation, for a period of 5 years, commencing in 2019, first due in calendar year 2020?

FOR THE TAX LEVY  
AGAINST THE TAX LEVY

The other renewal, a 0.5% Income Tax on May 7, 2019, is for permanent improvements. This is not a new tax; it is a 3-year renewal of an existing tax.

**What is a permanent improvement tax?**

A permanent improvement tax can be used for anything that will last 5 years or more. In past years, this money has been used for replacing roofs, buying new busses, remodeling classrooms, repairing/updating HVAC (both air conditioning and boilers) updating/repairing restrooms, plumbing, updating/repairing outside facilities, replacing windows and doors, tuckpointing/mortar repair, updating security measures, updating electrical and lighting, painting, paving, purchasing textbooks and technology, etc. We will need to utilize these funds in much the same way in future years.

Obviously, these permanent improvement dollars are critical for us to continue to maintain and improve our schools' infrastructure. We pledge to use these monies wisely, as we have in the past; we will continue to publish the revenue and expenses for these projects in the [Bluffton News](#), [Bluffton Icon](#), and the Summer District Newsletter.

*These two renewals are critical for the on-going financial stability of our district.*

**Delphos City School District**

PROPOSED TAX LEVY (RENEWAL)

DELPHOS CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage

A renewal of a tax for the benefit of the Delphos City School District for the purpose of general permanent improvements at a rate not exceeding 2.25 mills for each one dollar of valuation, which amounts to \$0.225 for each one hundred dollars of valuation, for 5 years, commencing in 2019, first due in calendar year 2020.

FOR THE TAX LEVY

AGAINST THE TAX LEVY

**Delphos City School District**

PROPOSED TAX LEVY (RENEWAL)

DELPHOS CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage

A renewal of a tax for the benefit of the Delphos City School District for the purpose of current expenses at a rate not exceeding 5.5 mills for each one dollar of valuation, which amounts to

\$0.55 for each one hundred dollars of valuation, for 5 years, commencing in 2019, first due in calendar year 2020.

FOR THE TAX LEVY  
AGAINST THE TAX LEVY

**The General Operating Levy is estimated at \$907,535 and will be used for general operating. The Permanent Improvement Levy is estimated at \$287,902 and will be used for permanent improvements. Both are renewal levies so will not cost taxpayers any additional monies.**