

## Mifflin Township May 2018 Police Levy Questions & Answers

Voters will decide May 8 on replacing an existing 3-mill levy from 1984, plus an adding a 3-mill levy for a total of six mills to fund the local Mifflin Township Police Department. Passage of this levy enables the township to continue protecting residents in the Mifflin Township community. The police department was originally formed at the request of the residents in 1980 and the first levy was passed in 1981.

For your convenience, we have compiled general questions received by the township about the levy.

**What is the current annual cost to a Mifflin Township homeowner for police service?** According to the Franklin County Auditor’s office, the levy will generate approximately \$206,000 annually. This will cost **homeowners** with a property/home valued at \$100,000 approximately \$210 per year, \$157 more than what they are currently paying. If your property is valued at less than \$100,000, the cost will obviously be lower. ***If you do not own your home, you will not pay anything. The property owner assumes the tax.***

**What would a typical homeowner pay in Mifflin Township?** Below is a breakdown of what a typical homeowner is currently paying for police services compared to what the new levy will cost.

Property Value	Total Taxable Property Value	Currently Levy (Effective rate on 3-mil levy from 1984)	Proposed Levy (Replacement of 3 mills + increase of 3 mills)	Increase from previous levy per year	Increase from previous levy per month
\$25,000	\$8,750	\$15.14	\$52.50	\$37.10	\$3.09
\$50,000	\$17,500	\$30.28	\$105.00	\$74.72	\$6.23
\$75,000	\$26,250	\$45.41	\$157.50	\$112.09	\$9.34

**How do I find out exactly what it will cost me if I am a property owner?** If you want to know your exact cost, log into the Franklin County Auditor’s website <http://www.franklincountyauditor.com/>

- 1) Pull down the Search tab and click on Address in the pull down menu.
- 2) Search by address or owner.
- 3) Once you have found you property, click on “Quick Link” at the bottom of the left navigation bar.
- 4) Once you are on that page, you will see a link called Levy Estimator: See the annual cost of proposed tax levies.” Click this link to see how the police levy will affect your property tax bill.

**Does a “mill” mean a million?** NO. Many state and local jurisdictions raise money from property taxes based on the value of the land that each person or business owns. The mill represents how much of the property’s taxable value will be charged in real estate taxes. Each mill represents a tax on one-thousandth of a dollar of the assessed value of the property. This is why we typically explain the cost as based on what it will cost the owner of a property valued at \$100,000. It is an easy way to show the millage. If your property is worth less, say \$50,000, your cost will be half.

**What will the money pay for if the levy passes?** A successful levy will help to support operating costs to provide round-the-clock police protection in Mifflin Township. Typical operating costs include maintaining and updating equipment such as vehicles, computers, body camera software, and continuing to offer officers competitive salaries.

**What would happen if the levy fails?** The Mifflin Township Police Department would have to make cuts that ultimately would impact service to the neighborhood. Residents know the importance of having a local, responsive force that is knowledgeable about the community. With the police station located in the community behind the fire station, officers are able to be on the scene to your emergency in minutes, which can be critical in a crisis. A quick response time from a local police department could save lives since it shortens the response time when a 9-1-1 call is received. Cutbacks to patrol time would mean that the Franklin County Sheriff's department would take over these duties and the Mifflin Township community may not have the personal contact with a consistent law enforcement team that knows the neighbors.

**If I rent, am I taxed?** No, only the property owner pays the tax.

**I thought a levy was just passed in November.** No, the police levy which was on the ballot in November of 2017 failed by 34 votes. Residents who voted for the levy totaled 88, and residents who voted against the levy totaled 122.

**Where does Mifflin Township Police serve?** Residents in the unincorporated area of the township, which falls between Gahanna and Columbus are served by the department. The Mifflin Township officers patrol approximately 14 road miles.

*Do you have a question about the Mifflin Township police levy? Send us your questions, and we'll add the answers and update this Question & Answer sheet. Email questions to Melissa Rapp at [rappm@mifflin-oh.gov](mailto:rappm@mifflin-oh.gov), or call at (614) 471-4494.*

Updated: April 16, 2018