

# **Mifflin Township Police Levy Questions & Answers**

## **Primary Election: Tuesday, May 4, 2021**

Voters will decide on Tues., May 4 whether to approve a replacement of the current 2-mill levy that expires at the end of this year (2021). The permanent levy of 2 mills supports the operation of the Mifflin Township Police Department and would pick up where the current levy ends. Passage of a permanent levy eliminates the need to vote on a replacement every five years and provides approximately \$75,000 toward the police budget.

## **How will this issued be described on the May 4 ballot?**

### **Issue 5: Mifflin Township Police District (Unincorporated Area) Replacement**

A replacement of a tax for the benefit of Mifflin Township Police District (Unincorporated Area) for the purpose of providing and maintaining motor vehicles, communications and other equipment used directly in the operation of a police department, or the payment of salaries of police personnel, including payment of the police officers employer's contribution required under ORC Section 145.48 or 742.33, or operating expenses, or payment of purchases, or the payment of costs incurred by townships as a result of contracts made with other political subdivision in order to obtain police protection at a rate not exceeding 2 mills for each one dollar of valuation, which amounts to \$0.20 for each one hundred dollars in valuation, for a continuing period of time, commencing in 2021 first due in calendar year 2022.

## **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 other critical equipment, and continue our current level of staffing.

The township has seen an increase in crime over the past few years, specifically issues related to the opiate epidemic, such as robbery, drugs and other felony offenses. This levy would help the division continue to tackle these issues, as well as have the budget to keep officers on the streets.

## **What is the difference between a renewal and replacement levy?**

The current 2-mill levy has been renewed at the same level every five years. This levy will replace the renewable levy first voted in 1996 with a permanent levy, eliminating the need to vote on a replacement every five years. Additionally, the replacement will factor in any value changes in property and then lock that value in for the life of the levy. The current levy generates about \$47,539 annually.

## **How does this help the township and the community?**

A permanent levy creates a more reliable funding source for the department, enabling the township to make better decisions about expenses, driven by township needs rather than an "expiration date."

## What will this cost me as a homeowner?

According to the Franklin County Auditor's office, this replacement levy would generate about \$75,300 annually. This will cost homeowners with a property valued at \$50,000 approximately \$12-\$15 per year. This is a property tax which is assessed to the homeowner.

If you want to know your exact cost, log into the Franklin County Auditor's website

<http://www.franklincountyauditor.com/>

1. Click the link for **Online Tools** in the upper right hand corner of the website Home page.
2. Find the icon for **Levy Estimator**.
3. Search by address or parcel number and click the **Search** button.
4. Once you have found your property, scroll down the page to see **Proposed Levies for Upcoming Election**.
5. This box will show you how the police levy will affect your property tax bill and what you will pay for annually.

## If I rent, am I taxed?

No, only the property owner pays the tax.

## 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.

*The Mifflin Township Division of Police has been in operation since 1961 and serves the unincorporated portion of Mifflin Township. In November 1981, the voters passed a tax levy, creating a full-time division. The division has six full-time officers and maintains 24-hour police protection. Three part-time officers, who receive the same police academy training that is required of full-time officers, provide additional manpower. The division operates out of a building located behind the fire station on 2459 Agler Road. The department patrols the unincorporated area of the Township—approximately 3.9 square miles with a population of about 3,000.*

*Have more questions about the Mifflin Township police levy? Send us your questions and we will add them to our Frequently Asked Questions. Email Melissa Rapp at [rappm@mifflin-oh.gov](mailto:rappm@mifflin-oh.gov) or call at (614) 471-4494 with your questions.*

Updated: April 20, 2021