



The Ballot Issue

On Tuesday, May 4, 2021, Sidney City Schools will be asking voters to approve, for 10 years, a 0.75% earned income tax levy to generate \$3.3 million to support the district's operations.



Earned Income Tax

EARNED INCOME taxes the working wages (W2) and income from self-employment of the residents of the district.



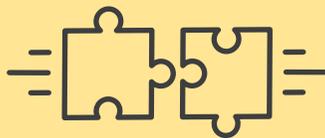
Income Not Taxed

- retirement income
- Social Security income
- IRA distributions
- pensions
- unemployment compensation
- workers compensation
- interest royalties
- profit from rental activities
- lottery winnings
- distributive shares of profit from corporations
- child support
- alimony received
- distributions from trusts and estates and dividends
- capital gains



Stabilize & Protect

Passage of the levy, coupled with changes the district has made to reduce expenses, will stabilize district finances for the foreseeable future. This levy will help to fund day-to-day operations of our schools such as staffing, utilities, and supplies.



A Community Investment

A strong school system attracts business and commerce, which keeps the local property values high and reduces the tax burden on individual property owners.

- School performance and school perception are critical to attracting talent to a community, especially families with children.
- Homes sell easier in areas with quality education and solid local support for schools. A vote for schools protects your investment in your property.
- Good schools also attract good people to our community – and to fraternal clubs, churches, and other groups that make a district a good place to grow up, raise a family or retire.
- Supporting a school levy in your hometown is essentially an investment in the quality of your community.

How Much Will It Cost Me?

Each person will pay 0.75% (or 0.0075) of their EARNED income. Most individuals will see a deduction from their paycheck.

When was the last time the district received additional local money?

The district has not received new or additional local money since 2009. (12 years)

What cost-saving measures has the district implemented prior to asking for additional funding?

It has been 12 years since Sidney City Schools received new local monies. In that time, we have worked diligently to balance costs while maintaining the quality of education our community expects and our students deserve. We have stretched those dollars as far as possible without making cuts that would erode educational quality through several efforts, including:

- 2010-2015 district wide staff pay cut and freeze of 2.75% plus increased benefits cost to staff
- 2019-2020 staff reductions through the reconfiguration of the schools totaling \$1.26 million in savings annually
- 2020-2021 staff reductions totaling \$1.95 million in savings annually
- 2021-2022 staff reductions totaling \$2.1 million in savings annually
- Procuring cost-saving contracts for energy, buses, equipment, and supplies through the Southwest Ohio Educational Purchasing Council, a purchasing co-op with other school districts
- Comparing prices from vendors to ensure we are taking advantage of the best prices
- Completing as many maintenance projects as possible which improve energy efficiency for long-term operating savings; by replacing maintenance staff with skilled professionals in HVAC, plumbing, and electrical trades, the district has contracted less with outside service providers
- Shifting some programming costs to be paid with federal grant dollars, thus relieving the general fund even further

Why does the district need additional local money?

Simply, our expenses are exceeding our revenue and are causing the district's carryover balance to quickly dwindle.

Inflation, school safety needs, state-mandated programs, special education, College Credit Plus, social and emotional wellness, other unfunded mandates, and changes in how schools are funded/school funding formulas have continued to tighten our budget and have led to the forecasted deficit spending pattern.

State funding is flat. Additionally, our local revenue sources have essentially flatlined due to little economic growth.

What significant increased expenses has the district seen in the budget since 2009?

- Buses used to be partially funded by the State. Now the purchase of buses falls wholly on the local school district. The cost of a single bus is approximately \$90,000.
- College Credit Plus was not state-mandated, and previously, guardians were responsible for the cost of the courses. While we love being able

to offer more than 15 College Credit courses on our own high school campus, CCP The cost of CCP for SCS for the 2020-2021 school year is \$144,000.

- Special education costs continue to rise.
- Open Enrollment out of the district continues to be a great expense to the district. When students open enroll out of the district, they take both the state and local share of revenues.

Why do school districts continue to ask for additional funding?

Levies, or voted mills, are the major source of revenue for most school districts in Ohio, but HB920 (a law enacted in 1976) basically freezes a district's collection rate on voted millage. So when home values increase, a school district's voted millage is reduced and the collection rate, also known as the effective rate, remains the same. Except for a one-time increase for new construction, school districts do not see increases in collections on their voted millage due to HB920.

For school districts, simply keeping up with inflationary cost increases is challenging under HB920 and also the main reason most districts return to the taxpayers for additional revenue every few years.

I don't have school-age children or my kids don't attend public school. What stake do I have in the quality of schools?

A strong school system attracts business and commerce, which keeps the local property values high and reduces the tax burden on individual property owners.

Good schools also attract good people to our community – and to fraternal clubs, churches, and other groups that make a community a good place to grow up, raise a family or retire.

Sidney City Schools has a long-standing relationship with the non-public schools within our community. A strong and supported public school only stands to make the private schools stronger.

Aren't our school taxes already high? No. Actually, our taxes are among the lowest in our region. Even with the passage of this levy, local taxes going to the school district would still remain low.

Local Taxes Paid Per Child

School District	Income Tax Paid	Property Tax Paid	Total Local Taxes
Indian Lake	\$0	\$9,139	\$9,139
Vandalia-Butler	\$0	\$9,021	\$9,021
Troy	\$2,632	\$5,026	\$7,657
Tipp City	\$0	\$7,059	\$7,059
Miami East	\$2,719	\$4,279	\$6,998
Fairlawn	\$1,201	\$5,554	\$6,755
Covington	\$2,982	\$3,729	\$6,711
Fort Loramie	\$2,850	\$3,778	\$6,627
Minster	\$1,550	\$4,800	\$6,350
Jackson Center	\$1,851	\$4,393	\$6,244
New Bremen	\$2,193	\$3,823	\$6,016
Anna	\$1,711	\$4,105	\$5,817
New Knoxville	\$2,184	\$3,534	\$5,718
Botkins	\$1,745	\$3,831	\$5,576
Piqua	\$1,878	\$3,695	\$5,573
Russia	\$1,436	\$4,107	\$5,543
Riverside	\$2,277	\$2,934	\$5,211
St. Marys	\$1,158	\$3,884	\$5,043
Hardin-Houston	\$740	\$3,632	\$4,371
Sidney	\$0	\$4,327	\$4,327

Source: 2020 Cupp Report, Ohio Department of Ed