



Delphos City Schools

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Delphos, Ohio 45833

Douglas Westrick

Superintendent

Delphos City Schools

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Dear Delphos Community,

As we begin our levy campaign and present information to our community, many questions and editorial comments may surface both pro and con towards the reasoning behind the levy. Both the levy committee and myself will do our best to explain the reasoning behind the levy and invite our community to ask questions. Social media is not the best way to ask questions so please feel free to email me at dwestrick@delphoscitieschools.org. You can also call my direct line at **419.692.2509 ext 100**.

Information about our levy will flow in many ways. You will find information on our website at www.delphoscitieschools.org.

Reasoning behind the levy.

Delphos City Schools has not passed a levy for new money since 2004. The reason we need levies is all Ohio public school districts are funded through a combination of state funds and local taxes. Delphos receives approximately 42% from State funds and 58% from locally generated funds. With the fact that the state has flat funding our district for the next two years, increasing our local tax effort has become paramount.

After 7 years of growth, our district began deficit spending in 2018 which means we spent more than we received. This is unavoidable over time. Per state law, we do not receive any growth on our property tax revenue. Revenues remains flat but expenses go up. This is and always has been the pattern of funding education.

Currently, we are the only school district in Ohio with a negative balance forecasted at the end of this year. We are working to eliminate this deficit. We are forecasting a deficit of 1.3 million at the end of next school year and -2.4 million the following. Operating levies are the primary way to increase revenue. Within the last fourteen years, DCS has reduced and cut dozens of staff members and programs. Our district has very little left we can reduce to balance the budget.

Our current levy is .50% traditional income tax renewable after five years. This is the amount we predict will allow our district to operate in the black by year four, along with focused reductions

and efficiencies. New unfunded state mandates, state budget changes, EdChoice and unknown expenditures all influence how long we can stay off the ballot for additional revenue.

Delphos City Schools has one of the lowest voted tax efforts in Allen and Van Wert County. This levy will **maintain** all current programs, services, and staff allowing for our students to thrive educationally and socially while at school. **Our students deserve what other districts have.** Any future educational reductions will devastate our students ability to compete and cause additional revenue to be lost as families choose to be educated elsewhere. The Delphos community has so much positive momentum right now and keeping our schools funded appropriately is vital.

The strong schools at DCS provides our students the ability to be prepared for whatever lies ahead. Recently, Franklin Elementary received the National Blue Ribbon Award for excellence. Franklin is one of 14 schools in Ohio and one of 360 nationally to receive this award. Our middle school state report card boasts all A's and B's and has improved each year over the past six years. Jefferson HS graduates approximately 95% of students on a yearly basis and has recently added freshman career course that is like no other in the state. By the time graduation comes along, our students are prepared for college or career opportunities.

Our commitment to you is continued care for your children, improvement every day, and fiscal transparency. Thank you for your continued support of Delphos City Schools.

Strong Schools, Strong Community!

Sincerely,

Douglas Westrick

Superintendent

Go Cats!