

REYNOLDSBURG CITY SCHOOLS

Empowering leaders who impact the NOW and innovate the FUTURE



These talking points may be used to provide neutral, accurate and factual information about the levy:

What is the issue that will go on the ballot in November?

Reynoldsburg City Schools will ask voters for a levy in November that will raise \$8.5 million annually in additional operating revenue for the next five years.

Why Now?

- In fiscal year 2023, the District entered a period of deficit spending.
 - Essentially, we are depleting our savings to pay for everyday operating costs, like bus fuel, utilities and salaries, such as bus drivers, teachers and paraprofessionals.
- Following the pandemic, districts received an influx of recovery funding from the federal government. This funding has been discontinued.
- Since the pandemic, we have noticed a greater need for social-emotional and mental health supports and academic intervention for our students. We have continued to provide these supports despite the loss of recovery funding.
- A change in the State law requires districts to purchase curriculum consistent with the science of reading. The District purchased new K-12 curriculum materials for all core subjects.
 - The cost of this curriculum is approximately \$2.3M in FY25 and will need to be re-evaluated at the end of FY27.
- Property value increases negatively impacted the State Funding Formula, causing the state to contribute less per student. For FY25 that loss is estimated to be \$1.5M less than last year.
- Inflation has resulted in increased costs to operate—everything from buying milk for school lunches to fueling our buses to ensuring our salaries are competitive. Utility costs such as electricity, gas, water and sewer have increased by 25% since FY19.

When was the last time RCS had a levy on the ballot?

Reynoldsburg City Schools has not asked the community for an operating levy since 2010.

- Typically, a district goes on the ballot every four or five years. Because we have been fiscally responsible, we have been able to avoid proposing a levy for over 14 years.

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What will the levy accomplish?

The levy would:

- Ensure our hard-working teachers and support staff are appropriately compensated in an ever-growing and competitive market, including:
 - Maintaining appropriate staffing levels with qualified and quality personnel
 - Maintaining appropriate staffing levels for our special education classrooms
 - A typical special education learning unit is comprised of 5-10 students.
 - Retaining elementary school assistant principals
 - Providing professional development to address student academic challenges and gaps (resulting from the COVID-19 learning loss)
 - Providing support for teachers and principals to meet the diverse needs of our students.
 - Since 2021, our ELL population has grown by 22%
 - Since 2021, our students with an identified disability have grown by 19%
- Continue to provide educational materials and curriculum that promote our Portrait of a Graduate competencies.
 - Providing access to a variety of courses and electives at the middle and high school levels
 - Continuing to provide educational experiences such as field trips and student travel opportunities
- Maintain upkeep on our current buildings and ensure safe and conducive learning spaces for ALL of our students, including:
 - Continuation of radon testing and mitigation plans
 - Upholding the District Facilities Preventative Maintenance Plan
 - The Five-Year Forecast currently includes \$19M for asset replacement such as roofing repair and replacement, parking lot repairs, HVAC replacement, and replacement/repair of playgrounds and athletic fields throughout the District.
- Allow for the continuation of sports, clubs, and extracurricular activities.
- Allow for the continuation of current safety and security measures with existing personnel. Since 2023 the District hired three additional safety and security staff and they have participated in training to ensure effectiveness.
- Maintain our current technology plan for students and staff, ensuring 1:1 access. Currently, the District supplies more than 10,000 devices for 15 buildings. Since 2022, the District has invested more than \$4 million in technology from the Emergency Connectivity Fund, provided by the FCC for COVID-19 relief.
- Maintain the district bus replacement schedule to ensure that buses are replaced and maintained in a way that prevents significant future investment.

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- Provide ongoing access to mental and behavioral health professionals, such as social workers and counselors.

What research have you done to justify the recent reorganization at Central Office?

Last year, the District conducted audits of curriculum, special education and human capital management. The data described what is needed to create a high-functioning organizational K-12 structure. The audits provided insights into processes, procedures and staffing to allow District leadership to remove extraneous responsibilities from principals and teachers, allowing them to focus on our students.

The curriculum audit data allowed us to address our reading and math assessments as well as our Ohio School Report Card data.

The human capital management audit data allowed us to put together a plan to recruit, hire and retain staff.

The special education audit data allowed us to address the diverse needs of our students.

What will it cost?

The Reynoldsburg City Schools Board voted in a July board meeting to place a 6.65 mill, five-year operating levy that would raise \$8.5 million annually on the November ballot. The property tax levy would raise \$233 per \$100,000 of appraised property value for property owners within the district.

You can add your property's appraised value to our calculator at reyn.org/levy.aspx to find out what your annual and monthly amounts will be.

I have a question that was not answered here. Where can I get more information?

www.reyn.org/levy.aspx or email superintendent@reyn.org

Remaining Town Halls:

Oct. 17, 2024: Reynoldsburg Senior Center Presentation. 11:30am - 12:30pm. The RSC at 1520 Davidson Drive.

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