

# Underwood Gazette

ALL THE THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW FROM THE WAYNE COUNTY AUDITOR

April 2023

Volume 3

## Wayne County Auditors Website Offers Proposed Levy Information to Taxpayers

According to Ohio law, property taxes may be levied by any county, township, city, village, school district or other special district by resolution of its governing body. Real property taxes are imposed locally with voter approval of tax levies at the ballot box in the primary and general elections.

With the upcoming Primary Election on May 2, Wayne County Auditor Jarra Underwood wants to make sure that voters are informed and have access to resources that will help them cast their vote on election day.

“As an elected official I never take the right to vote for granted, it’s a freedom that many places in the world do not have. I think we all agree on the importance of voting- elections are determined by voters that show up,” said Underwood.

The auditor’s office receives phone calls from property owners across the county during election season regarding levy information and the impact that these levies will have on property tax bills.

### What levies are on the May 2<sup>nd</sup> Primary ballot?

There is one countywide issue for the Wayne County Care Center and several local issues involving school districts, fire districts, townships, and local options across the county listed below.



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Entity	Years	Mills	Use	Type
Southern Sugar Creek Twp Fire	3	2.00	Fire & EMS	Additional
Triway Local School District	3	2.80	Emergency	Renewal
Wooster City School District	36	6.70	Bond	Additional
Wayne County	5	1.20	Care Center	Renewal with increase
Central Fire	continuing	4.00	Fire & EMS	Renewal with increase
Clinton Township	4	1.50	Fire	Renewal

### What impact will these levies have on my taxes?

If a present tax rate does not generate enough revenue to cover expenditures proposed, additional millage must be placed on the ballot for voter approval during an election.

If a levy is successfully passed on the ballot, the increase to a taxpayer is determined by the number of mills and the assessed value of a property.

The property tax rate is measured in mills; a mill is one-tenth of a cent. This translates to \$1 for each \$1,000 of assessed property value while the assessed value is calculated by taking 35% of the total appraised value. So, a property with an appraised value of \$100,000 would have an assessed value of \$35,000.

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### How are my taxes calculated?

For a breakdown of how property taxes are calculated- property owners can refer to the county auditors' site and fill in property specific information.

- [www.waynecountyauditor.org](http://www.waynecountyauditor.org)
- Info tab at the top
- Real Estate Tax

### Where do my taxes go?

The taxes are divided between the county, your school district, the joint vocational school district, the township, the city, mental health and fire districts, and your library.

The auditor's office provides website information for property owners to see how proposed levies will impact their tax bills as well as allows owners to read a description of each proposed levy.

After searching for a parcel on the auditor's website directly below the sketch and map, there is a blue highlighted section titled "Levies" that will give an estimate of the change a taxpayer could expect to see on their tax bill for the tax year stated in the ballot language if that levy was passed. Each parcel will only show levy information that is pertinent to each specific property.

Near the bottom of each parcel's records on the website, taxpayers will find a Tax Distribution section that will give information on the levies, amount of taxes and the percentage of taxes collected and sent to each subdivision. A pie chart as well as numerical totals are listed for each parcel.

Underwood quoted a favorite quote by Susan B. Anthony "We must never forget the importance of making our voice heard, someone struggled for your right to vote, use it" she said. "While Ms. Anthony was an activist for women's rights in the 1800's, her words are still sound advice today for all citizens."

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For more information, or for help navigating the auditor's website, please call the Wayne County Auditor at (330)287-5435.

Since each vote in our community is important- Underwood wants voters to be advised of changes at the polls. The passage and implementation of House Bill 58 has changed some voting laws and requirements for elections in the state of Ohio:

- Photo ID is now required to vote in person.
- Absentee by mail ballots must be requested by Tuesday, April 25 (7 days prior to the election) on a Secretary of State prescribed form.
- All mailed ballots (postmarked by May 1) must reach the Board of Elections no later than 4 days after the election (May 6, 2023).
- All problem ballots must be cured by May 6, 2023.

The Wayne County Board of Elections office will be open extended hours through May 6, 2023.

For more information on the election or the proceedings, information can be found on the Board of Elections website, [www.WayneCountyOH.gov](http://www.WayneCountyOH.gov) or by calling their office at (330)287-5480.

MacKenzie Taylor is the Information Officer for the Wayne County Auditor.