November 2026

1% Earned Income Tax Levy

Need for Increased Revenue

State Property Tax Reform Reduced Anticipated Revenue by $13 Million over the next four years with no increased revenue from the State.

We Face an $8.5 Million Annual Shortfall and Depleted Savings by 2030

District Expenses Are Outpacing Our Capped Revenue

We Must Continue to Invest in Our Educational Programs and Prevent Severe Budget Cuts

Our Community is Growing Rapidly, and We Need Scalable Funding

State Property Tax Reform Reduced Anticipated Revenue by $13 Million Over the Next Four Years.

- Changes to state law and property tax reform have effectively frozen our local school revenue.
- These state-level changes are projected to decrease previously forecasted local revenue by $13 million over the next four years.
- State funding will backfill that loss through 2027, when we will see a significant decrease beginning in 2028.

We Face an $8.5 Million Annual Shortfall and Depleted Savings by 2030

- Without a new source of revenue, our district will face a staggering $8.5 million yearly deficit by 2030.
- Our Cash Balance policy requires us to maintain 90 days of cash on hand, or implement a plan to restore the balance to 90 days.
- Without this levy, our "savings account" will drop to a dangerous 16 days of funding in 2030, threatening our operational stability.
- The negative balance in 2031 requires the Treasurer to present a plan to the State of Ohio.

District Expenses Are Outpacing Our Capped Revenue

- The cost of running our school district is growing at 3.77% annually due to inflation, rising operational costs, and specialized student needs.
- Meanwhile, our revenue is only growing at 2.06% per year.
- This creates a widening gap where expenses outpace revenue, a problem we can no longer resolve without significant intervention.

We Must Continue to Invest in Our Educational Programs and Prevent Severe Budget Cuts

- If the levy does not pass, the district will be forced to eliminate at least $8.5 million in expenses. This would result in deep, disruptive cuts to academic programs, student services, and classroom teachers.
- Securing this funding allows us to protect the quality and depth of our education programming.

Our Community is Growing Rapidly, and We Need Scalable Funding

- Lebanon is seeing a significant spike in housing developments and new families.
- Unlike fixed property taxes, which will no longer grow due to this reform, an earned income tax grows naturally as new wage-earners move into the area.
- This ensures the district can proactively hire staff, handle enrollment surges, and continue to meet the needs of our students as Lebanon grows.

1% Earned Income Tax Levy Proposal

District will place a 1% Earned Income Tax Levy on the November 2026 Ballot

If the Levy Passes, the District Can Provide Property Tax Relief Over the Next Two Years.

1% Earned Income Tax Levy Placed on November 2026 Ballot

- Earned Income Tax levies only apply to individuals’ current wages and income and do not include businesses, retirement, pensions, Social Security, dividends, interest or capital gains.
- This levy will diversify revenue streams and will reduce the District’s reliance on property taxes. This is the recommendation of elected officials in Columbus and in Warren County.

If the Levy Passes, the District Can Provide Tangible Property Tax Relief to Our Residents

- **2027:** District can pay off Bond 2.5 years early due to refinancing and smart fiscal stewardship. This will reduce Property Tax collection by 1.38 mills and will save the District $210,000 in future interest.
- **2028:** District will cease collection of 0.77 mill Permanent Improvement Levy and will not seek renewal in 2028.
- Result will be 2.15 mills of Property Tax Reduction in the next two years.

Key Community Benefits

Targeted Tax Relief: Delivers direct tax decreases for senior citizens, retirees, and residents on fixed incomes who are most impacted by rising property values.

District will budget $2 million annually towards Permanent Improvements, instead of the $1.4 million generated currently by the levy, which will increase annual facility maintenance and permanent improvements expenditures.

Diversified Revenue reduces the District reliance on property taxes amid historic property value increases.

Scalable Revenue at a time of significant housing and population growth: Income taxes will increase as new wage-earners move into the District, ensuring revenue grows as our population grows.

This proposed path is expected to secure our schools' financial stability through 2032. This is contingent on no additional changes to the way our schools are funded.