

Frequently Asked Questions

Q ~ Why is the levy necessary?

A ~ This money is needed to replace the loss of tangible personal property tax revenues. Tangible personal property tax revenues were generated from local business inventory values and furniture/equipment values held by a business. House Bill 66 eliminated this tax through a phase out process and has shifted the burden onto the local taxpayers.

Q ~ Why doesn't our state government solve the problem?

A ~ As you have seen in the newspaper and on TV, state aid to schools is actually going down when you consider inflation. The Ohio Supreme Court has four times declared the states funding formula unconstitutional, and four times the General Assembly has ignored those rulings. We in Lakewood cannot count on the state to solve our school funding crisis.

Q ~ How do other districts manage to operate without cuts?

A ~ They don't. The average number of years between new levy requests for a school district is about 3 years. School districts across our state are making cuts and have been making cuts to educational programs for many years as the school funding system in Ohio is seriously flawed. The current funding formula does not allow for inflationary increases. When cuts are made to a school system, the education of students and quality of programming are ultimately what suffers.

Q ~ What happens if the May 4th Levy Loses? Will it really affect the schools?

A ~ The results would be staggering if you value having good schools in Lakewood. Without these new funds, our school leaders will have to cut \$4.4 million.

What do we stand to Lose?

- No textbook purchases
- No bus purchases
- Implement 2 mile walk radius to school and ½ mile bus stop
- Eliminate all extra-curricular programs such as band, athletics and drama
- Eliminate all art, music, and P.E. teachers in the elementary grades
- Reduce school day to state minimums
- Reduce teaching staff by 42 (current staffing numbers are 145)
- Reduce other staff by 20-30

Q ~ Why don't staff members take pay cuts?

A ~ The employees of Lakewood have taken a pay freeze in prior years and have already agreed to a pay freeze for the 2010-11 school year.

Q ~ Why does the district need revenues that are in addition to the renewal we recently passed?

A ~ The financial status the district will have in fiscal year 2011 is a direct result of House Bill 66 that was approved by our legislators. The passing of this bill eliminated the tax businesses pay on tangible personal property and shifted the burden onto the local tax payers



LAKWOOD SCHOOLS

May 2010						
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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
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30	31					

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