



Health Levy 2021 Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Why do a renew and increase? You could just do a replacement and leave the millage the same.

A. By renewing the 0.7 mill the State of Ohio will continue to contribute a portion of the millage and relieve taxpayers. If we replaced the levy that cost sharing would go away due to changes in the law. At the time of a replacement the full cost of the millage would go on the taxpayer. Also, a replacement would be based on current property values, not the value from 1992. New property values are much higher, so a .7 mill would bring in more money than we need to operate. The Health Department is only asking for what is necessary.

Q: How will the levy funds be used?

A: The levy helps to support all aspects of the department. It is core funding for the agency that has been approved for the past 30 years. Some programs that are not grant funded or fee supported receive more levy allocation, and others with revenue streams receive less. This levy is critical to the ability of the Health Department to operate.

Q. What are some of the programs that receive more funding?

A. The levy specifically supports Newborn Home Visits, Car Seat Safety Checks, Tobacco and Vaping Education, Drug Overdose Prevention, Fatality Review Boards, Communicable Disease Monitoring, and staff time to assist local businesses who need to work with other state agencies (such as Ohio Department of Agriculture and the Ohio EPA).

Q. Is the levy related to COVID response?

A. No. This is a renewal and modest increase of existing core funding.

Q. How long will this be collected?

A. The collection period is 10 years.

Q. Why not just ask for a renewal?

A. The Health Department has asked for a renewal twice and careful consideration is taken whenever an increase is considered. The 0.7 existing levy will not provide enough funds for the projected 10 year period it needs to cover.

Q. Why is there an increase this time?

A. The Health Department uses taxpayer funds cautiously. The costs of operation, however, are rising and there is a need to make an adjustment.

- Technology costs with computers, security, broadband, and software have increased over time.
- Employee costs have also risen with the Health Department needing to compete with the NE Ohio market for medical/licensed personnel.
- There has also been a significant change with our grant funding. In the past, the Ohio Department of Health would provide funds in advance to begin work. Now, we need to expend funds and seek reimbursement. This ties up over \$1M each year in funds in support of grants.

Q. Doesn't the state pay to operate the Health Department?

A. No. The state gave \$86,148 in non-grant funds to the agency in 2020 to operate.

Q. Why doesn't the county cover the cost of the Health Department?

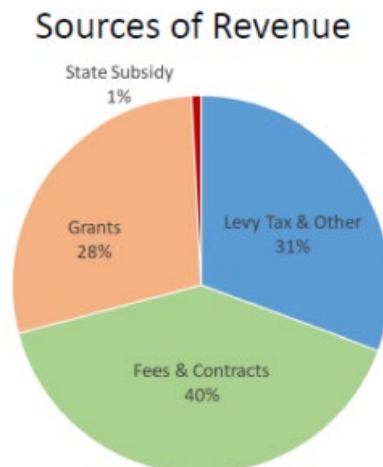
A. By Ohio law the Health Department is an independent agency with a board appointed by elected officials and industries regulated by it. We are not a county agency, but we do work closely with the county. By Ohio law we are required to use the auditor, treasurer, and prosecutor for payroll,

Q: I have never come to the health department, why should I support you?

A: The health department touches your life every day if you live, work, or play in Medina County. We register births and deaths, inspect all food operations (restaurants, grocery stores, convenient stores), provide immunizations, inspect schools, and collaborate with other non-profits to serve our residents. Our goal is to support healthy living and ensure that our entire county has a quality of life.

Q: Why don't you use other ways to fund your services?

A: The health department has many funding sources which keeps our request to taxpayers small. Levies are 31%, grant are 28% and contracts/fees are 40% of our annual budget.



Q. How much will the total cost be for the renewed and increased total levy?

A. \$14.70 per year on a \$100,000 valuation.

Q. How can I support the levy?

A. Share our message on Facebook -

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/medinacountyhealthmatters>. The group will say "Friends of the Medina County Health Department." Consider writing a letter to the editor, or just simply talking to your friends and neighbors about the levy and why it is so important to the well-being of our county.

Q. Where can I vote?

A. Early in-person voting at the Board of Elections, 3800 Stonegate Drive, Suite C, Medina Township (Off Pearl Road behind Hobby Lobby and Litehouse Pools)

October 5 – October 22 Monday – Friday @ Board of Elections 8am – 5pm

October 25 – October 29 Monday – Friday @ Board of Elections 8am – 7pm

October 30 – 8am – 4pm

October 31 – 1pm – 5pm

November 1 – 8am – 2pm ** last day to early vote

Search by your address to find your polling location for Tuesday, November 4th

<https://www.boe.ohio.gov/medina/election-info/>