

What You Should Know About Issue 11 - Safety Services Levy for Cleves

What is covered by the levy?

This property tax will pay for safety services for the residents of the Village of Cleves. It includes: the Fire/EMS contract with Miami Township, Cleves Police and 911 dispatch fees. Issue 11 will generate \$195,652 a year in revenue for the Village to pay for these vital services.

How much will this cost me each month?

Only \$10.21 a month for each \$100,000 in your home's value, as recorded by the Hamilton County Auditor.

Why is this levy necessary?

Since 2015, there has been a steady increase (49%) in demand for calls and service by our safety services personnel (police, fire, EMS). Additionally, the Village of Cleves has struggled to hire enough part-time officers to cover shifts as our hourly pay rate for police officers is among the lowest in the county. This levy will allow the Village to continue to provide quality 24 hours a day, 7 days a week coverage of safety services for the residents in the Village of Cleves.

What happens if this levy doesn't pass?

Additional cuts will be necessary. There may be reduced or minimal safety service coverage, which means significantly delayed response times. The quality of safety services will be greatly compromised with additional reductions.

How do property taxes in Cleves compare to neighboring areas?

Since 1997, property taxes in the Village of Cleves have DROPPED more than 56%--from 24.96 mills in 1997 to 13.99 mills today. Property taxes in Miami Township and the Village of Cleves are *nearly identical*: a \$100,000 home in the Village of Cleves pays \$1,959.99 a year in taxes a year, while the same \$100,000 home in Miami Township pays \$1930.63 a year. That's a difference of only \$29.36 a year!!

Why are you asking the voters for more money now?

With the unforeseen cuts in Federal, State and County funding in addition to unfunded State and Federal requirements (such as updated safety services technology and radios), the Village has no choice but to ask residents for help with an additional \$10.21 a month to continue providing quality safety services. Additionally, with the drastic rise in calls for service (up 49% since 2015) we are sometimes delayed in our response times due to staff shortages.

Tell me more about the Village of Cleves annual budget?

The Village is constantly looking for ways to save money by cost-sharing through partnering with other entities, as well as finding more economical solutions. Property tax currently accounts for 75% of the general fund of \$948,000 annually. And due to decreased property value by the county auditor, the revenue that Cleves will receive in the future is less. Approximately 62% of the general fund pays for all safety services (fire, EMS, police), an amount comparable to other local municipalities.

Why not just have the county sheriff take over?

This has been explored a number of times in recent years. To have the exact same coverage dedicated to the Village of Cleves by the county sheriff would cost more in the long-run, and we would lose our community based policing. And it's a fact: Community based safety service personnel are more vested in the community. They know their neighbors and community because they live and work here everyday. They provide more personalized service and intervention. The Miami Township Fire Department works cooperatively with the Cleves Police Department as partners in your safety. Additionally, the Village of Cleves Police Department has made great strides in the last two years with Chief Jones at the helm to have well-trained, educated and experienced military veterans on our force.

We urge you to attend council meetings on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7pm at 101 N. Miami Avenue or contact any of your Village of Cleves officials.

On November 7th, Village of Cleves residents will be asked to vote on Issue 11-which will pay for safety services.