



HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE  
Proponent Testimony on HB 488  
Tuesday, March 20, 2018

Chairman Schaffer, Vice Chairman Scherer, Ranking Member Rogers, and members of the House Ways and Means Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today. My name is Micah Derry and I am the State Director of Americans for Prosperity - Ohio, the state's largest grassroots advocacy organization for economic freedom. On behalf of tens of thousands of Americans for Prosperity activists across Ohio, I ask for your support on House Bill 488, which would provide meaningful transparency and accountability protection measures for taxpayers.

The changes in this bill are relatively straightforward, but would provide voters important clarifying information to help them be better informed when they go to the ballot box. Specifically, the requirement that election notices and ballot language for property tax levies convey the rate per \$100,000 of fair market value more easily gives Ohioans a realistic assessment of the impact those tax increase would have on their homes and their specific property tax burdens.

Similarly, the requirement to display the effect of the tax reduction factor on replacement on renewal levies in relation to the existing levy would allow property tax payers to see an accurate assessment of the attempt by local governments to increase size or revenue intake of government relative to what it would otherwise be.

Both of these reforms are important for Ohio taxpayers, and it is important that HB 488 ties them together. Ohio is infamous for its sheer number of local taxing authorities. Ohioans are constantly barraged with attempts to raise revenue and grow government at the local level, often with little accountability or information provided as to the real impact of these efforts. The changes above – among others in this legislation – would allow voters to more easily comprehend the impact both on their individual household, as well as the total impact on the community as a whole.

Any reform that provides more transparency in government and creates a more informed and engaged voting citizenry is an important one to help keep government accountable and in check with the people it serves. This bill takes necessary steps to do so at the local level, and we strongly urge its passage. For this reason HB 488 has been marked as a key vote on our legislative scorecard.

Thank you again, Chairman, for the opportunity to testify before you today, and I look forward to answering any questions the committee may have.

*Americans for Prosperity (AFP) exists to recruit, educate, and mobilize citizens in support of the policies and goals of a free society at the local, state, and federal level, helping every American live their dream – especially the least fortunate. AFP has more than 3.2 million activists across the nation, a local infrastructure that includes 36 state chapters, and has received financial support from more than 100,000 Americans in all 50 states. For more information, visit [www.AmericansForProsperity.org](http://www.AmericansForProsperity.org).*