



**AMERICANS FOR  
PROSPERITY®**

**OHIO**

**HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE**

**Proponent Testimony, HB 76**

**Tuesday, March 26, 2019**

Chairman Schaffer, Vice Chairman Lipps, Ranking Member Rogers, and members of the committee, thank you for holding this hearing and for the opportunity to provide testimony.

My name is Jeff Dillon, and I am the Legislative Liaison for Americans for Prosperity – Ohio. As one of the largest grassroots organizations in the nation, Americans for Prosperity (AFP) is driving long-term solutions to the country's biggest problems. Our organization, and its thousands of activists across Ohio, are dedicated to breaking internal and external barriers that stand in the way of people realizing their full potential. Removing these barriers, in whatever forms they take, helps move our society toward one of mutual benefit, where people succeed by helping others improve their lives and by transforming their communities. As such, I urge you to support House Bill 76, which would make changes to ballot language that would make it easier for voters to understand the impact of proposed tax changes.

The foremost barrier that House Bill 76 will eliminate, if enacted, is voter confusion. Representative Merrin ably explained during his sponsor testimony all the various ways in which the current arcane millage system can present challenges to voters, and AFP completely agrees with his description of the current problem. Government dollars are taxpayer dollars, and government works for the people, not the other way around. Being as clear and forthright as possible with voters before asking them to make a financial commitment is simply the fair and common-sense thing to do. AFP supported a previous iteration of this bill during the 132<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly, we and applaud Rep. Merrin's inclusion of additional provisions in HB 76 that will increase transparency and fairness, especially the requirement that election notices and ballot language display the estimated amount the levy would collect each year. Voters deserve to know why they're being asked to pay more, and what the total amount is going to be so they can make an informed decision in the voting booth.

AFP-Ohio consistently advocates for stewardship of taxpayer dollars – and that starts with when and how local governments ask their constituents for those tax dollars. Given the common-sense nature of this legislation, and the fact that its precursor was already passed by the House last year, we respectfully ask for your favorable and expedient consideration of this bill.

Thank you, Chairman Schaffer. I'm happy to answer any questions the committee may have at this time.

*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).*