

WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

PLEASE COMPLETE THE WITNESS INFORMATION FORM BEFORE TESTIFYING

DATE: MARCH 18, 2015

NAME: RALPH SHELL

ORGANIZATION: CLERMONT NORTHEASTERN LOCAL SCHOOLS
(IF APPLICABLE)

POSITION/TITLE: SUPERINTENDENT

ADDRESS: 2792 US HIGHWAY 50

CITY: BATAVIA STATE: OHIO ZIP: 45103

TELEPHONE: 513-685-1411

ARE YOU REPRESENTING: YOURSELF _____ ORGANIZATION X

DO YOU WISH TO TESTIFY ON

LEGISLATION (BILL NUMBER): HB64

SPECIFIC ISSUE: SECTION 285.8

SUBJECT MATTER: FUNDING OF DISTRICT SHARE OF BASIC PROJECT COST

DO YOU FAVOR _____ OR OPPOSE **XXX** THE ENACTMENT OF LEGISLATION REGARDING THIS ISSUE?

PLEASE GIVE A BRIEF STATEMENT OF THE GROUNDS ON WHICH YOU FAVOR OR OPPOSE SUCH ENACTMENT:

WILL YOU HAVE A WRITTEN STATEMENT, VISUAL AIDS, OR OTHER MATERIAL TO DISTRIBUTE?

Yes X No _____

(IF YES, PLEASE PROVIDE COPIES TO THE CHAIRMAN OR SECRETARY) WILL BE E-MAILED TO YOU LATER IN THE DAY

HOW MUCH TIME WILL YOUR TESTIMONY REQUIRE? 5 MINUTES

I would like to address Section 285.8, lines 78,197 through 78,202.

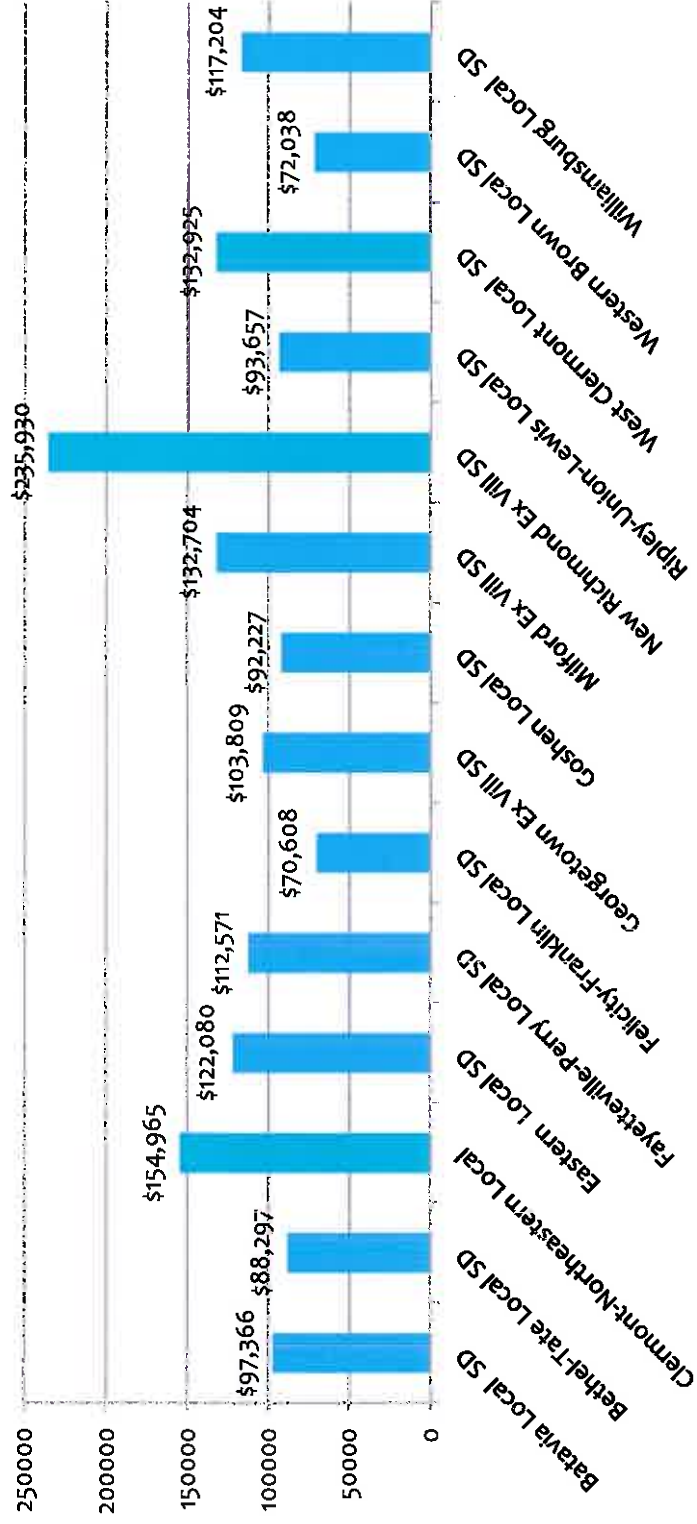
A school district shall not fund its share of the basic project cost of a school facilities project under Chapter 3318. Of the Revised Code with cash-on-hand resulting from a lease-purchase agreement or certificate of participation under section 3313.375 of the Revised Code that is not subject to voter approval, except as provided in division (b) of the section

If this were to become law, it ensures Clermont Northeastern Local School District will never get handicapped, accessible buildings. Exhibit 1 – Valuation per Pupil to contiguous districts: Our valuation is so high we only qualify for 22% funding. Unable to use our permanent improvement money it would require our voters to pass 9.5 mils. If we were permitted to use our permanent improvement funds it would only take 4.5 mils. The residents of Clermont Northeastern are paying a higher percentage of their income for schools than any of the contiguous districts except for one. Our valuation per pupil is higher than any of the contiguous districts. Our elementary building is not handicapped accessible and we only got handicapped restrooms in the high school two years ago. I think the State of Ohio should do more to ensure all students attend buildings that are up to federal standards.

I would like to suggest a solution to this embarrassing problem: Permit schools to use their permanent improvement funds and the state, through the Facilities Commission, co-fund construction on any substandard building at 50%. If the state is concerned about districts borrowing money from a local bank and using the buildings as collateral, the state could loan the districts the amount they could borrow from a bank at 1% below prime from the Rainy Day Fund. This would assist the state in growing the Rainy Day Fund because the local districts would be paying a higher percent than the State is now getting. The state is guaranteed their money because the school's repayment could be taken out of the school's foundation payment.

An all-out effort should be made to ensure all girls and boys in the State of Ohio attend handicapped accessible buildings.

District Assessed Valuation Per Pupil FY13



District Local Revenue As % Of Total FY12

