

Honorable Senators,

My name is Andrew Glenn. I have been a Trustee in Springfield Township (Lucas County) for 20 years. In 2021 the county consolidated 5 existing 911 call taking/dispatch locations into 1 location serving the entire county. This consolidation also altered the source of funding for 911 in the county. Small communities and townships were disproportionately impacted by this change in funding. Prior to consolidation, Lucas County funded the 911 dispatch location for the sheriff and each community that chose to have a dispatch location funded theirs. No other jurisdictions paid to fund 911 outside of the county wide property tax paid by their residents and businesses. When the committee voted to consolidate the 911 dispatch locations, they also had to pick from 3 options the state provides to fund the consolidated dispatch. The problem with the options the state provides is that 2 are county wide property taxes, and one forces each jurisdiction to find a way to pay the additional amount out of their current budget or put an additional property tax levy on the ballot to pay for it. Lucas County implemented the option where each jurisdiction must find a way to pay their share.

While the current proposal to increase user fees for cell phones and internet connections is a step in the right direction, it does not come close to correcting this funding issue in Lucas County. The additional language we have proposed would allow counties who consolidate their dispatch centers to, by a majority of votes, implement additional user fees to each device in amount sufficient to fully fund these consolidated centers.

We believe the addition of our proposed language is simple common sense. Property tax is a disproportional funding method for.... well, everything... but especially 911. Funding 911 through property tax means that the single senior citizen on a fixed income living in a modest middle-class neighborhood that has a single phone line and internet connection pays the same amount for 911 as the family next door with 4 teenagers living at home and has 6 phone lines and an internet connection. When we purchase a cell phone we expect, rightfully so, that we will be able to call 911 from that device, so it simply makes sense that we pay an additional monthly fee for that peace of mind.

Respectfully,



Andrew Glenn

Springfield Township Trustee

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