



June 16, 2025

The Honorable Bill Roemer
Ohio House of Representatives
77 South High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Chairman Roemer,

We are writing on behalf of the Dublin City School District and the City of Dublin to express our strong **opposition to House Bill 335, the "Property Tax Relief Now Act,"** currently under consideration by the Ohio General Assembly. We recognize and share the concerns that many of our constituents have regarding property tax rates. It is an issue that impacts every homeowner and business within our community.

The Dublin City Schools' reliance on local property taxes is significant. With only a small percentage of our school funding provided through the state's foundation formula, we depend on local property taxes for over 80% of our operating budget. With each levy request, we are keenly aware that our local voters choose to increase their property taxes to maintain the excellence expected from the Dublin City School District. This continued support is a testament to our community's commitment to high-quality education.

Ohio's tax structure is a complex and interdependent system. If one form of taxes is reduced, other taxes will likely need to be increased to maintain essential services. The inside mills in the Dublin City School District alone generate over \$24 million per year. As our recently approved Five-Year Forecast demonstrates, the district will already be deficit spending in the upcoming fiscal year. The loss of this critical revenue source would not only accelerate the financial challenges we face, but also force immediate and difficult decisions. Our conservative estimate indicates that the elimination of inside millage could result in the reduction of approximately 250 teaching positions—an impact that would grow even larger when factoring in potential unemployment costs. Without a comparable and reliable replacement, the district would be left with no choice but to quickly return to voters with a new levy request to preserve the services and educational excellence our community expects.

The City of Dublin would also experience a significant impact. In 2024, the City received \$5.1 million in revenue from inside millage—critical funding used to maintain streets, support parks and recreation amenities and invest in capital improvement projects. The loss of this revenue alone would be challenging, but coupled with the far-reaching effects on the Dublin City School District, it presents a serious risk to our collective ability to provide the high-quality services and programs that our community expects and deserves.

The Dublin City School District and the City of Dublin have long partnered to ensure a high quality of life for our community. Our nationally ranked schools are a cornerstone of our identity and economic strength and our shared services—from safety and infrastructure to recreation and enrichment—are vital to our continued success. Undermining this balance risks diminishing the very qualities that make our community thrive.

Finally, consider that the proposed changes to property taxes in Ohio not only impact the education of the students in our community but also the safety and security of our families. Inside mills are part of a complex funding structure for the municipalities that are part of our district, including the City of Dublin, portions of Columbus, Hilliard, and Union County. We rely on elite police and fire services, and our organizations partner extensively for recreational and community programs that enrich the lives of our students and families. The services expected by our community require consistent and reliable funding. We are dependent on this revenue to do the jobs our constituents expect us to do in both education and essential municipal services.

We understand the desire for tax reform, and we are committed to being a partner in finding sustainable solutions that benefit all Ohioans. However, we must express our deep concern regarding House Bill 335. If enacted, the bill's elimination of inside millage would have profound and far-reaching consequences for the Dublin City School District and the wider community. We welcome the opportunity to discuss these matters further with you at your convenience.

Sincerely,



Diana Rigby
President, Board of Education
Dublin City School District



Chris Amorose Groomes
Mayor
City of Dublin



John Marschhausen
Superintendent
Dublin City School District



Megan O'Callaghan
City Manager
City of Dublin