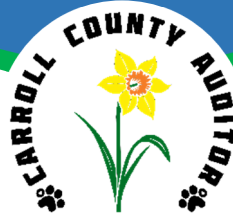


**Staci Brady**  
**Carroll County Auditor**



119 South Lisbon Street, Suite 203  
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June 17, 2025

Chairman Loychik, Vice Chair Mathews, Ranking Member Troy, and members of the House Ways and Means Committee:

I am writing to you today in my capacity as the Carroll County Auditor to respectfully but urgently express my opposition to House Bill 335, which proposes the elimination of inside millage as a component of Ohio's property tax system. This legislation would undermine local fiscal stability, disrupt the delicate balance of our taxation framework, and further erode the foundational support for essential public services.

This bill threatens to undermine the foundational structure of local government and school district funding - a structure that has long balanced the interests of public services and taxpayers. Inside millage, established by the Ohio Constitution, is one of the few remaining tools of guaranteed, unvoted local revenue that counties, municipalities, and school districts rely on to meet essential obligations. Its elimination would create an immediate and permanent funding gap that local governments would be forced to address through deep service cuts or by shifting the burden onto taxpayers through alternative tax increases.

While I understand and share the concern for Ohioans facing increasing property tax burdens, eliminating inside millage would not resolve the core problem. Instead, it would create new financial instability for schools and local governments, particularly in rural and lower-wealth counties.

Rather than dismantling a constitutional mechanism, I strongly urge the consideration of targeted reforms that address taxpayer hardship directly.

1. **Expand the Homestead Exemption** to include more seniors and low-income homeowners, particularly those on fixed incomes who are most vulnerable to tax increases.
2. **Limit revenue growth** for school districts to better align with inflation and demographic trends - without eliminating essential baseline funding.
3. **Create tax relief programs** aimed at protecting low to moderate income residents.

Ohio's property tax system needs thoughtful modernization, not reactionary dismantling. As someone who works daily with taxpayers, local officials, and school leaders, I can assure you this bill would produce unintended consequences far beyond the scope of its intent. The urgency of this matter cannot be overstated. HB 335 may appear simple on the surface, but it would have deep and lasting consequences for counties, school districts, and residents who depend on reliable, predictable funding for critical services.

I respectfully ask you to oppose HB 335 and to support a more measured, equitable path forward. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss these concerns and alternative solutions further. Thank you for your attention to this critical matter and for your continued service to the people of Ohio.

Respectfully,

***Staci Brady***  
Carroll County Auditor