
The City of Reynoldsburg

6/16/2025

Dear Gov. DeWine, House Speaker Huffman, and Senate President McColley:

On behalf of the millions of Ohioans who rely on the vital public services that our communities, first-responders, educators, and local governments provide, we join together today to express our grave concerns regarding the potential impacts of enacting House Bill 335. While we understand the urgency to address rising property taxes, we also know that potentially eliminating over \$3 billion of inside millage revenue would be extraordinarily damaging to Ohio's schools, local law enforcement, and other essential services provided by local communities. In 2011, the state Local Government Fund (LGF) was reduced by half costing local communities approximately \$300 to \$400 million in lost revenue each year. Under HB 335, Ohio's municipalities could lose over \$650 million, counties could lose over \$850 million, and Ohio's schools could lose \$1.9 billion each year, according to the Ohio Legislative Service Commission.

The potential for lost revenue of this scale to Ohio's schools and local communities is staggering compared to the previous LGF cuts and would have profound impacts on essential services in communities large and small across Ohio.

- For municipalities in general, the loss of \$650 million annually would seriously threaten staffing levels in police and fire departments across Ohio and make the challenge of keeping communities safe even more difficult. For Reynoldsburg specifically, the impact is estimated at \$880,559.00. This type of loss would immediately jeopardize municipal pension fund obligations and debt service payments for municipal bonds because inside millage in many cities has been utilized for these costs for decades.

- The potential loss of funding for counties would have immediate and severe impacts on essential services. Sheriff's offices throughout Ohio, regional emergency management departments, and vital social services such as mental health and addiction treatment, child and adult protective services, would all face significant challenges in maintaining their operations and providing necessary support to the community.

- The magnitude of the funding loss for Ohio's public schools would be so significant that it would lead to substantial reductions in staffing and teaching positions across school districts throughout the state. This would severely impact the quality of education and the ability of schools to meet the needs of their students. Reynoldsburg

City Schools, already struggling due to a failed levy and the general uncertainty of State related funding would stand to lose an estimated \$7,978,163, potentially including up to 50 to 70 classroom teachers and support staff, curriculum offerings, transportation options and more.

We do recognize that HB 335 provides an option for schools and communities to seek voter approval of inside millage to avoid funding cuts and service disruptions. This would likely result in hundreds if not thousands of additional levy requests in communities across Ohio. It would also exacerbate the confusion, frustration, and levy fatigue among Ohio voters. This is not practical nor would it alleviate the concerns Ohioans have regarding increasing property values on and rising property tax costs.

We do recognize the need to be solution oriented and would welcome the opportunity for our organizations to work together with you on ways to provide both short-term relief and long-term property tax reform. However, this is not a collaboration that can be successful if it is constrained to the final 15 days of this months-long state budget process. We ask that the provisions in HB 335 not be included in the state operating budget (HB 96) during conference committee. Instead, we hope to work together on solutions that address the concerns of Ohioans while not jeopardizing the essential public services.

Respectfully,



Joe Begery
Mayor
City of Reynoldsburg

WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the Witness Information Form before testifying:

Date: 6/17/2025

Name: Joe Begeny

Are you representing: Yourself ☐ Organization ☒

Organization (If Applicable): City of Reynoldsburg

Position/Title: Mayor

Address: 7232 East Main Street

City: Reynoldsburg State: Ohio Zip: 43068

Best Contact Telephone: 614-322-6800 Email: JBegeny@Reynoldsburg.gov

Do you wish to be added to the committee notice email distribution list? Yes ☒ No ☐

Business before the committee

Legislation (Bill/Resolution Number): HB 335

Specific Issue: Inside Millage

Are you testifying as a: Proponent ☐ Opponent ☒ Interested Party ☐

Will you have a written statement, visual aids, or other material to distribute? Yes ☒ No ☐

(If yes, please send an electronic version of the documents, if possible, to the Chair's office prior to committee. You may also submit hard copies to the Chair's staff prior to committee.)

How much time will your testimony require? n/a

Please provide a brief statement on your position: On behalf of the millions of Ohioans who rely on the vital public services that our communities, first-responders, educators, and local governments provide, we join together today to express our grave concerns regarding the potential impacts of enacting House Bill 335.

Please be advised that this form and any materials (written or otherwise) submitted or presented to this committee are records that may be requested by the public and may be published online.

