



Union Local School District



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To Whom It May Concern,

As President of a County Commissions from rural Ohio, I am writing to express my concern regarding current property-tax related legislative efforts that would have far-reaching negative consequences, not only for our local school districts, but for the overall stability and vitality of our communities.

Specifically, I strongly oppose any policy that would automatically lower property taxes as a result of fund balances reaching a certain threshold. Such a policy would undermine the autonomy of local governments, and ignore the prudent financial planning that many school districts have exercised to prepare for future capital needs, economic uncertainties, and fluctuations in state funding. A one-size-fits-all approach risks penalizing fiscal responsibility and could jeopardize the long-term stability of local education systems.

However, I am not opposed to transparency and accountability. To that end, I would support legislation that requires county budget commissions to conduct an annual review of school district cash balances that exceed 30%. An annual review process would allow for a more nuanced understanding of local financial conditions and provide a more balanced framework for oversight without stripping local districts of the flexibility they need to serve their communities effectively.

Above all, I urge the legislature to uphold the principle of local control, a long-standing value held by rural Ohio counties. Local officials are best positioned to understand and address the unique needs of their constituents. Imposing state-level mandates that override local decision-making not only erodes trust but also disrupts the careful balance of governance that has long defined Ohio's commitment to home rule and responsible stewardship.

I thank you for your efforts in working collaboratively with local schools and counties to ensure that changes to fiscal policy reflect the voices and expertise of those in the communities.

Sincerely,

Zachary E. Shuttler

Jets Think. Jets Care. Jets Aim High.