



Community Newsletter

ROSSTWP.ORG

Fall 2025

ROSS TOWNSHIP FIRE & EMS LEVY PROPOSAL

Key Facts for Voters

As Ross Township prepares for a vote on a proposed 6.5 mill fire levy, township officials are discussing what the change would mean for Fire and Emergency Medical Services funding. Below is a summary of the essential facts behind the proposal, how it compares to current funding, and what impact it would have on local taxpayers.

CURRENT FIRE DEPARTMENT FUNDING

Ross Township's fire department is currently funded by **two property tax levies; a 2.75 mill levy and a 3.0 mill levy**. Together, these levies total **5.75 mills** and generate roughly **\$1.12 million annually** for the department.

However, due to Ohio's rollback laws and effective millage reductions over time, these levies now generate revenue at an effective rate of only **3.28 mills**, not the full 5.75. This means the department is operating on significantly less than originally intended.

In practical terms, this leaves the fire department

functioning on what is essentially **2014-level funding in 2025**.

WHAT THE PROPOSED 6.5 MILL LEVY WOULD DO

The proposed **6.5 mill** levy would:

- **Replace** the two existing levies (5.75 mills total)
- **Increase effective fire department funding** by about **0.75 mills**
- **Rescind the old levies**, contingent on passage of the new one
- **Establish a permanent source of funding** going forward

If the levy is approved, the **Board of Trustees has committed** to rescinding the current levies, making the 6.5 mill levy the sole funding source for the fire department. This levy will also be a permanent levy.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The new levy would generate an **estimated \$1,018,629 in additional revenue** beyond what is



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LEVY PROPOSAL (CONT.)

currently being collected. For homeowners, the cost breakdown would look like this: A home valued at **\$300,000** currently pays approximately **\$306.93** per year under the effective rate of the existing levies (3.28 mills). Under the proposed 6.5 mill levy, that same homeowner would pay **an additional \$375.57 per year**, or **about \$1.03 more per day**, for a total of \$682.50.

WHY THE LEVY IS BEING PROPOSED

Township officials say the fire department needs updated funding to:

- Address rising operational costs since 2014
- Maintain 24/7 staffing and adequate emergency response times
- Keep pace with increasing call volumes
- Replace aging equipment, such as stretchers and cardiac monitors, that are well beyond their service life

- Replace aging fire apparatus and ambulances
- Fund training, facility maintenance, and firefighter retention

Without a replacement levy, the fire department will face limitations in maintaining current service levels or planning for future growth.

SUMMARY

While described as an “additional” levy, the new proposal is structured to **replace**, not stack on top of, the current fire department levies. The net increase is 0.75 mills, intended to help the fire department meet current and future service demands more effectively.

Residents are encouraged to learn more from township meetings, official websites, or speak directly with officials to get answers to any questions they may have before voting.

POLICE DEPARTMENT HAPPENINGS

- Upcoming Fall events to watch out for are National Drug Take Back Day, Halloween Trick or Treat, Veterans Day event at Elda Elementary School, Cram-A-Cruiser, and our annual Christmas event at local hospitals.
- Recruits Kammer, Robbins, and Lemmer have completed their Field Training Program and are on the streets solo protecting the Township.
- School Resource Officer Madison Stoeppel recently attended a 40-hour Crisis Intervention Team Training course.
- Our new K-9 Team Sgt. Liddil and K-9 Blitz have already seized several dangerous drugs off the streets of Ross Township including Fentanyl, Methamphetamine, Cocaine, and also a loaded firearm of a convicted felon.
- All of our officers have completed the mandatory Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy's annual Continued Professional Training Hours.
- Ross Township PD in conjunction with the Butler County OVI Task Force has conducted 2 OVI Checkpoints in the Township this year resulting in the arrest of impaired drivers. We also run monthly saturation patrols to save lives and keep our Township roadways safe.



BOARD OF TRUSTEES CANDIDATES FORUM

The community is invited to attend a Ross Township Board of Trustees Candidates Forum on **Wednesday, October 29, 2025, at 7:00 PM.** The event will be held in the **Ross High School Performing Arts Center.**

This forum will provide residents an opportunity to hear directly from the candidates, learn about their positions on key issues, and gain insight into their vision for the future of Ross Township.

Information will also be provided on the proposed Ross Township Fire and Emergency Medical Services levy.

All are welcome to attend.



SIDEWALK INSPECTIONS TO BEGIN THIS FALL

The Ross Township Road Department will soon begin inspecting sidewalks for needed repairs or replacement.

The Ohio Revised Code Section 5543.10 provides authority that the abutting property owners are responsible for the maintenance, repair or replacement of sidewalks on Township streets.

When a section is deemed in need of repair or

replacement the property owner will receive a notice as to what needs to be done. If the repair/replacement isn't completed within 180 days the Township will hire a contractor to do the repair and the cost will be assessed to the tax bill of the property owner.

Any questions may be directed to Road Superintendent Paul Bulach at pbulach@rosstwp.org or by calling (513) 863-2337 ext. 180.

NOTICE TO SUBDIVISION HOMEOWNERS

To help keep our sidewalks safe and our streets clear, Homeowners are **NOT permitted to plant trees between the sidewalk and the curb.** Trees in this

area can obstruct visibility, make snow removal more difficult, and cause sidewalks to lift and crack as roots grow – creating potential safety hazards.





4055 Hamilton Cleves Road
Fairfield, Ohio 45014

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ROSS TOWNSHIP CONTACTS

TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES:

Keith Ballauer W 513-863-2337x113 C 513-646-9242

Russell A. McGurrin W 513-863-2337x110 C 513-413-8840

David M. Young W 513-863-2337x114 C 513-262-0713

FISCAL OFFICER:

Julie Joyce-Smith

W 513-863-2337x112

ADMINISTRATOR:

Laurie Kile

W 513-863-2337x111

NON-EMERGENCY:

Police Chief Robert Gerhardt W 513-863-2337x130

Fire Chief Chris Johns W 513-863-3410x150

Road Superintendant Paul Bulach W 513-863-2337x180

Police Department W 513-863-2337

4055 Hamilton Cleves Rd.

Fire Station #1 W 513-275-1463

2565 Cincinnati-Brookville Rd.

Fire Station #2 W 513-863-3410

1308 Ross Millville Rd.

SCHOOL NUMBERS:

Ross Local Schools

District Offices 513-863-1253

Morgan Elementary 513-738-1986

Elda Elementary 513-738-1972

Ross Intermediate School 513-868-4550

Ross Middle School 513-863-1251

Ross High School 513-863-1252

Private Schools

Stephen T. Badin High School 513-863-3993

St. Joseph Elementary 513-863-8758

St. Peter in Chains 513-863-0685

Queen of Peace Elementary 513-863-8705

OTHER IMPORTANT NUMBERS:

Butler County Building & Zoning 513-887-3205

MRAA 513-738-1392

Rumpke 800-828-8171

EMERGENCY DIAL 911