



Facts about the Fire & Emergency Services Levy

November 8

On November 8, Miamisburg and Miami Township voters will have the opportunity to vote on an 11-mill Fire & Emergency Services levy placed on the ballot by the Board of Trustees from the Miami Valley Fire District. The following are some frequently asked questions about the levy.

Q What is the Miami Valley Fire District?

A The Miami Valley Fire District (The Fire District) was formed in 2011 after several years of studies and joint meetings between the City of Miamisburg and Miami Township with a goal to provide more efficient and cost-effective fire and EMS service to both communities. This process was initiated after calls from state legislators for local governments to seek opportunities for shared services. The Miami Valley Fire District became fully operational in June 2012 and has continued to serve both communities for the last 10 years, operating on the original budget and revenue stream.

Q Why is the Fire District board placing this levy on the ballot?

A The Fire District has operated since its formation in 2012 from the same annual revenue of ~ \$10 million, despite the rising cost of all operating supplies, equipment, and apparatus increasing 29% - 65% over the past decade. The Fire District has been unable to replace or upgrade vital lifesaving equipment, replace outdated fire vehicles, fill personnel vacancies due to retirement or resignation, and replace or upgrade fire stations that are not strategically located to best serve citizens; even as calls for service have increased 29% during that period. In addition, the Fire District closed fire station 51 on Wood Road in 2019 to help ease the burden on the budget. Passage of this new levy will allow the Fire District to hire new employees, open and operate all five fire stations, begin to replace and/or upgrade vital lifesaving equipment and fire/EMS



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vehicles, and potentially build new fire stations that meet the community's needs.

Q What would be the consequences if the levy does not pass?

A Without passage of this levy, Miami Valley Fire District will encounter delays in replacing or upgrading critical lifesaving equipment such as cardiac monitors, CPR devices, ambulance cots, breathing apparatus, firefighter gear, or fire/EMS vehicles. A hiring freeze will be necessary, and it may be possible that the Fire District may not be able to address much-needed fire station improvements/replacements. Station 51 on Wood Road will continue to be closed, and there is a possibility that other stations may be understaffed or temporarily closed. Public education programs that require Fire District presence will be minimized and/or eliminated to cut fuel costs.

Q Why is it important to improve current service levels?

A The Miami Valley Fire District received 40% more calls for service in 2021 than in 2013. This increase in calls for service means that it takes more fire and emergency medical vehicles and personnel to respond in a timely manner to minimize the risk to life and property. In 2021, over 50% of the calls for service were overlapping, which means that more than two or more emergency calls were taking place simultaneously in the Fire District. Passage of the upcoming levy will allow an increased number of fire vehicles to be placed in service daily by the hiring of additional personnel and opening fire station 51. Also, the additional personnel and fire vehicles will potentially allow for faster response times to different areas of the Fire District due to a closer proximity of vehicles housed at each fire station. This levy may also allow new fire stations to be built in more strategic



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locations in the City of Miamisburg and Miami Township, which will also assist in potentially decreasing response times throughout the Fire District.

Q Who benefits from the Fire & Emergency Services Levy?

A Every resident of Miamisburg or Miami Township, as well as anyone passing through our communities who has a fire related or medical emergency will benefit from the Fire & Emergency Services Levy. This levy covers all aspects of the services that Miami Valley Fire District provides to Miamisburg and Miami Township, which includes structural firefighting, emergency medical services, technical rescue (water rescue, automobile crash rescue, high angle rescue, structural collapse rescue, trench rescue, confined space rescue), public fire education, CPR education, commercial building fire inspections, cause and origin of fires, and all maintenance of fire and emergency medical services buildings and vehicles that are located in Miamisburg and Miami Township.

Q Instead of a levy, can't the Fire District just cut costs?

A The Fire District has continued to cut operating costs annually to keep the cost for fire and EMS services to the taxpayers as low as possible. The Fire District has taken the following cost-cutting measures: closing fire station 51 on Wood Road in 2019 to minimize overtime costs, delaying upgrades to radio equipment that will be obsolete by 2025, leaving personnel openings unfilled, limiting all non-essential outside/inside trainings, limiting all non-essential vehicle/building repairs, delaying replacement of breathing apparatus that are near their end of life cycle, and delaying the replacement of IT equipment.



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Q Has the Fire District seen an increase in revenue recently?

A No. The Fire District has been operating from the same revenue source and amount since it was created in 2012. The District has cut costs annually to stay as close to the amount of annual revenue and to not overspend the small cash reserves that exist.

Q Has the Fire District been a good steward of taxpayer money?

A Absolutely. The Fire District was created to provide a more efficient and cost-effective service for the citizens of Miamisburg and Miami Township. If the Fire District had not been created in 2012, the citizens of Miamisburg and Miami Township would have collectively spent an additional estimated \$10.2 million to maintain the level of service that the Miami Valley Fire District has been able to provide to the two communities for the last 10 years.

Q How does the overall cost to operate the Miami Valley Fire District compare to other fire departments in this region?

<i>Community</i>	<i>Total Calls</i>	<i>Stations</i>	<i>Annual Budget</i>
Beavercreek Twp./Beavercreek	7,000	5	\$19,000,000
Washington Twp./Centerville	8,700	5	\$16,000,000
Clearcreek Twp./Springboro	4,000	3*	\$10,000,000
Miami Valley Fire District	9,950	5	\$10,000,000

*Clearcreek Twp./Springboro is currently building a 4th station



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Q Who would pay the tax and what is taxed?

A All residential and commercial property owners in Miamisburg and Miami Township would pay the same millage rate on the value of their property. Currently, residential, and commercial property owners in Miamisburg pay on a 3-mill fire & emergency services levy, while residential and commercial property owners in Miami Township pay a total of 7.15-mills (3.5 mill levy and a 3.65 mill levy) for their fire & emergency services. If the upcoming ballot issue is approved, the current fire levies for both Miamisburg and Miami Township will be eliminated, as well as the money from the general fund that the City of Miamisburg contributed towards the Fire District (\$2.6 million) will cease and will be used for other projects in the City of Miamisburg. The current levies will be replaced with a new 11-mill continuous levy, that is projected to last at least 10-15 years.

Q Can senior citizens get a break?

A Possibly. The homestead exemption allows low-income senior citizens and permanently and totally disabled Ohioans, to reduce their property tax bills, by shielding some of the market value of their homes from taxation. The exemption, which takes the form of a credit on property tax bills, allows qualifying homeowners to exempt up to \$25,000 of the market value of their homes from all local property taxes. For example, through the homestead exemption, a home with a market value of \$100,000 is billed as if it is worth \$75,000.

To see if you qualify, go to the Ohio Department of Taxation website:

<https://tax.ohio.gov/help-center/faqs/real-property-tax-homestead-means-testing/real-property-tax--homestead-means-testing>

Applications are available on the Ohio Department of Taxation website



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Q What would this cost me if my house is valued at \$100,000?

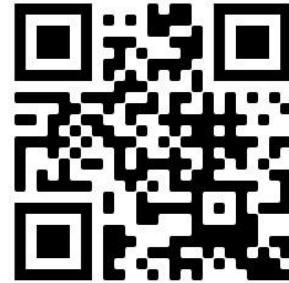
A The owner of a property that has an assessed value of \$100,000 per the Montgomery County Ohio auditor's website (www.mcrealestate.org) would pay:

- \$1.06 per day
- \$32.08 per month
- \$385 per year

This is the total amount that a property owner would pay and NOT in addition to or MORE than what the property owner currently pays

Q How do I figure out what this will cost me monthly/annually?

A In order to figure out what this will cost you per month or per year, go to the Montgomery County Ohio auditor's website at: www.mcrealestate.org, or www.miamivalleyfiredistrict.org and click on "Levy Info", or <https://cityofmiamisburg.com/departments/fire/>, or scan the following QR codes:



Miami Valley Fire District

City of Miamisburg

Montgomery County



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Q Why are we just now hearing about budget problems?

A The Miami Valley Fire District was created to improve the cost-effectiveness of fire service, both operationally and financially. Over the last 10 years that The District has operated, it has been able to provide fire and emergency medical service to the citizens of Miamisburg and Miami Township with the same revenue stream that voters put in place many years ago. Within the last few years, the expenses for operating the Fire District have risen to a point that without new funding, it will be forced to make cuts that will impact fire and emergency medical services to the residents. The Fire District Board of Trustees determined that a new levy was needed for The District to provide services at the same level citizens have come to expect and deserve.

Q How much of the money raised by this levy comes from residential property and how much from commercial property?

A 70% of the funding generated by this new levy comes from residential and agricultural property, and 30% of the funding generated will come from commercial and industrial property.



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Q Since my property value has gone up, doesn't that give you more money?

A No. Voted revenue does not increase as property values increase. The Ohio Legislature stopped increases in voted tax revenue due to increased valuation of property in October 1976. As a result, taxing jurisdictions, which includes counties, townships, municipal corporations, school districts, joint vocational school districts and special service districts such as fire districts are locked into income from the tax valuations in place at the time a levy is passed. Taxing jurisdictions do not benefit by increased property valuations due to inflation unless another levy is passed.

Q What additional revenue does the Fire District have?

A Besides the three levies and general fund transfer, the remaining Miami Valley Fire District revenue comes from billing for emergency medical calls transported to local hospitals, local/state/federal grants, and bureau of workers compensation rebates, which all equals about \$1.5 million annually.



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Q If I still have questions, how can I get more information?

A There are several ways to receive more information on this levy. You can contact Fire Chief Brandon Barnett by email: brandon.barnett@miamivalleyfiredistrict.org or by phone at: 937-560-2114, or you can go to the Fire District website by going to: www.miamivalleyfiredistrict.org, or the City of Miamisburg website at <https://cityofmiamisburg.com/departments/fire/>



Miami Valley Fire District



City of Miamisburg