

LEVYFACTS

ANALYSIS SAYS VOTE NO ON ISSUE 18

LevyFacts **number one concern** is Springboro Schools' **inability to align expenditures with incoming funding** and provide a realistic explanation why expenditures must increase much faster than the rate of inflation plus enrollment. The **second major concern** is **converting a renewal levy** that must be presented to the voters every five years **into a continuing levy** that will never again be approved by the taxpayers. This conversion **removes all possible fiscal oversight** for the members of this community. That is **not a good idea**.

Some Levy Facts

FACT 1. The new **Substitute levy** is on the ballot **a year early**. It begs the question why? The levy it is replacing does not expire until **2019**. If voters reject the Substitute levy, **Springboro Schools will not lose any funding in 2018** because the current levy has not expired. Rejecting the substitute levy will simply give school officials time to create realistic spending plans and re-evaluate their levy needs.

FACT 2. If voters approve this **continuing Substitute Levy**, there is no longer an opportunity to approve its effectiveness again. **These taxes are collected forever, whether they are really needed or not**. Substitute levies can also have 5 year terms. Schools are more responsive to parent and community needs and concerns when they must occasionally appeal to voters for approval of funds. Periodic levy renewals force school officials to scrutinize their actions and funding every few years. Why is this not a 5-year renewable levy?

FACT 3. Springboro School's total revenue has increased 22% since 2012, inflation is up just 6.1% since 2012, but **spending has increased at a 26% clip since 2012**. Much spending has been for non-educational purpose in administrative additions, substantial growth of purchasing outside services, and perks such as paying the employee's share of pension for some employees. Meanwhile, the D's and C's on the district Report Card indicate deficiency in the areas of K-3 literacy, Grade 8-12 Achievement, and Gap Closing.

FACT 4. According to district financial forecasts posted on Springboro.org, in 2015 Springboro School projected funding of \$47.5 million for 2017. In 2016 it made another adjustment, 2017 funding was projected to be \$48.3 million. 2017 funding was actually \$50.1 million. **District funding projections are consistently \$1.5 - \$2.5 million low**, suggesting a historical inability to accurately forecast the future.

A school district will be more responsive to parents and the community when it must occasionally seek approval for a portion of its funding.

See more levy facts at levyfacts.org

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Debunking The Talking Points

Talking Point: A vote against a school levy hurts the children.

Answer: A **NO** vote against this new money levy **will not reduce student funding** one penny from its existing level. A **NO** vote will however force the school district to resubmit this as a renewable levy that allows the community to re-evaluate the levy's effectiveness every five years.

Talking Point: A continuing levy saves money by eliminating the cost of a renewal.

Answer: When schools put issues on the November ballot on even years it costs about \$400 per precinct, and on odd years it costs of about \$1200 per precinct for the school district. Putting the levy on an even year means **the cost amounts to less than 3/10,000 of 1% of the levy proceeds over five years**. If they were serious about saving money on elections they would have placed this on an even year ballot and saved the taxpayers \$22,000. The fact that they did not care when this was on the ballot only illustrates the hypocritical nature of this argument. When taxpayers get to vote occasionally, district spending cannot be frivolous which saves much more money than any incidental cost the district might incur.

Talking Point: A continuing levy eliminates uncertainty about whether a renewal levy will pass.

Answer: In Ohio, over **90% of renewal levies are approved** by voters. There is very little risk a renewal will not pass. The fact that school districts are concerned they may not pass provides an incentive for schools to be responsive to parental and community needs.

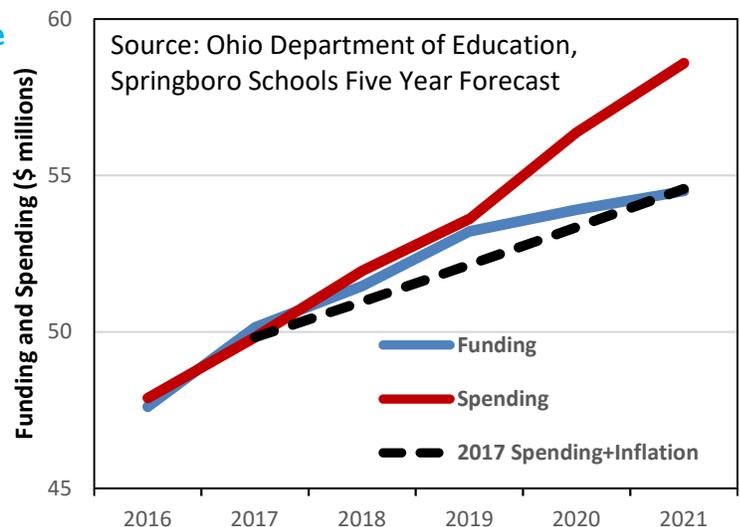
Big Spending, Small Results

Over the last five years Springboro Schools' **revenue has increased 14%** from \$43.4 million to \$50.2 million per year. Over the same period **enrollment has increased only 3.5%**. Or, put another way, in 2012 Springboro Schools received **\$7,467 per student**, the amount in 2017 was **\$8,368 per student**. You might expect that this surge in revenue would lead to better test scores, or if well managed, a nice cash reserve. Unfortunately, neither has occurred.

The adjacent graph shows school spending has exceeded this enormous revenue growth. Worse, Springboro's **current budget forecast** reflects plans to **accelerate spending** once again to **well above inflation, student growth rates, and expected funding**.

Springboro Schools has not made a serious effort to control their spending. Even though revenue growth has surpassed projections, a lack of spending discipline will cause future deficits.

Springboro Schools Planned Spending



Over the next five years Springboro Schools' revenue is projected to increase 18% from \$50.1 million to \$54.5 million per year. Even with this great leap in new revenue, spending is expected to outstrip those revenue and inflationary gains by more than \$4 million.

**IF YOU SEND IT, THEY WILL SPEND IT
CURB SPENDING FIRST**