ROSS COUNTY
OHIO

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Proposal for Millage Reduction in Ross County

Supporting a 1-year millage reduction on the inside millage collected for Ross County's general fund

Impact of Millage Rate on Ross County

Analyzing the Effects of Current Millage Rate on County Residents

Affordability of Homes

The most recent triennial update on property valuations has put significant strain on the affordability of homes and taxes for Ross County residents, affecting the housing market and potential homeowners.

Household Budgets

Residents are experiencing a strain on their household budgets due to the impact of the current property tax increases, limiting their ability to allocate funds for essential expenses and savings.

Local Businesses and Infrastructure

The current millage rate has resulted in limited funds available for local businesses and infrastructure development, impacting economic growth and community development.

Impact of Millage Reduction on Ross County's General Fund

Proposal to Cut Tax and Preserve Future Reclaiming Ability

Funding Source	Projected Amount	Details
Medicaid Sales Tax Revenue	$1,335,279	State funds provided as a transition since 2018
2024 Sales Tax Projection	$332,478	Above budgeted revenue
2024 Interest Income Projection	$952,638	Above budgeted revenue
Suspend 2025 Transfer to Park District	$285,000	Park District has its own levy and $600K+ carryover
Trim to 50% Carryover	$800,000	Cut $18.4M carryover to $17.6M for operating cash cushion

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General Fund Carryover

Highlighting the projected 60% general fund carryover, illustrating the financial strength of the general fund.

Potential Tax Cut

Commissioners' resolution for a one-year, two-mill rollback yields $3,677,202.84 tax cut, preserving the ability to reclaim mills in 2025.

Revenue Impact

Value of 1 Mill equals $1,838,601.42, emphasizing the significant impact of the proposed tax cut.

Funding Sources

Identified areas for funding the tax cut, including untouched state funds, sales tax and interest income projections, and adjustments to carryover and fund transfers.

Proposed Millage Reduction Plan

Outlining the Impact and Allocation of Funds

Five Identified Funding Sources

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Utilize $1,335,279 in state funds, projected 2024 sales tax revenue of $332,478, projected 2024 interest income of $952,638, suspend 2025 transfer to Park District saving $285,000, and trim carryover to 50% saving $800,000.

Impact on General Fund Carryover

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The general fund currently holds nearly a 60% carryover, ensuring financial stability and sustainability during the proposed reduction plan.

Estimated Tax Cut and Preservation

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Commissioners' resolution for a one-year, two-mill rollback yields a $3,677,202.84 tax cut, preserving the ability to reclaim these mills in 2025. The value of 1 mill is $1,838,601.42.

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High General Fund Carryover, Medicaid Sales Tax Revenue, 2024 Sales Tax Projection, 2024 Interest Income Projection

The general fund currently has nearly a 60% carryover. Significant state funds from Medicaid sales tax revenue and projected increases in sales tax and interest income.

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Suspend 2025 Transfer from General Fund to Park District, Trim to 50% Carryover

Proposed suspension of 2025 transfer to Park District and reduction of carryover to optimize fund utilization.

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Preservation of Reclaiming Ability in 2025, Value of 1 Mill

Preservation of the ability to reclaim mills in 2025. Each mill has a value of $1,838,601.42.

No Impact on School or Township Funding

The proposal solely affects revenue collected for the county general fund, with no impact on funds for schools or townships.

Projected Timeline for Millage Reduction Plan

Outlining the timeline for executing the millage reduction plan

Research and Analysis Phase

2 months

Community Engagement Period

3 months

Resolution Creation

<4 months

Implementation and Monitoring

2025

Recent Millage Reductions In Ohio

■ Butler County- Inside millage reduction (2024)

"As the 7th largest county in the State of Ohio, we operate with the State's lowest sales tax rate at 6.5%; one of only four of the 88 counties at that rate. We hold the line on spending and maintain quality services to taxpayers, and we do it at lower cost than most of our peers," said Board vice-president Don Dixon. "Our cash balance and reserves are the healthiest they've ever been and candidly, the taxpayer should benefit."

■ Delaware County- Inside millage reduction (2024)

"With property tax values increasing this year, we wanted to provide some property-tax relief," said Commissioner Jeff Benton, president of this year's Board of Commissioners. "Thankfully, because of the County's strong financial position and excellent fiscal management, we are able to provide this rollback, while maintaining our excellent services and continuing to fund our planned road improvements and new facilities."

■ Clinton County- Inside millage reduction (2024)

Commissioner Mike McCarty said, "with the rising costs that citizens are continuing to experience in groceries, gasoline and many other expenses, it is important for the board to make adjustments where possible, this returns an immediate value to our taxpayers."

■ Geauga County- (2024) Interesting plan of withholding collection of two 2023 tax levies for the county Department of Job and Family Services.

"The withholding of the tax collection on these voted levies is expected to completely offset the increase on the county's portion of the property tax collection," County Administrator Gerry Morgan said in a press release.

■ Warren County- 2022 Property tax holiday

"We should not have taxpayers' cash sitting like that," Young said. "So we decided to do a one-time tax holiday. We're not reducing your tax rates, we're not putting on, taking it off or anything like that, we're simply not collecting next year."