

# The Clermont County Public Library Levy

## *Information provided by the Clermont County Public Library*

The replacement levy is to bring the 1986 levy up to the current level of property values or .05 millage. The new levy is for operational expenses or .04 millage. The combined total is .09 millage which calculates to \$27.00 per \$100,000.00 of house valuation or less than the cost of 1 hard backed book.

### **Why is the tax levy needed? Is it a continuing levy or for a certain time frame?**

- The levy is strictly for covering operational expenses, NOT for any new construction.
- It is a continuing levy that should support the library's operational expenses for 10 plus years.
- State funding has been frozen since 2002, but our expenses have continued to increase, particularly energy and transportation costs.
- The last time the library requested a local levy in **1986**, Clermont County Public Library had 5 branches, served a population of 141,503 citizens, and circulated 489,479 items. We kept our commitment to the citizens and built 5 additional branches to better serve them. We now have 10 branches that serve a population of 192,706 with 598,087 items in our collection, and a circulation of 1.7 million items.
- According to the Auditor of State of Ohio Performance Audit Issued January 15, 2008 section 2 page 5, "Clermont County Public Library receives a significantly smaller percentage from property and other local revenues (17 percent versus 37 percent)" than our Ohio peer average.
- In section 1 page 5 of the Auditor of State of Ohio Performance Audit Issued January 15, 2008, the auditor states, "The results of these assessments indicate that the Clermont County Public Library have managed their resources well and provided quality services to Clermont County residents."

### **If approved, how will the funds be used?**

- To continue to provide Library materials for the public (including replacing and increasing books, CD's, DVD's and electronic resources)
- Providing services to seniors such as Homebound Delivery and outreach programs to senior centers, outreach programs to schools such as the Storytelling and Puppet Troupes, youth programs and services in our branches such as the Ready to Read early literacy and story time programs.

- Internet connectivity for the public
- New and replacement public computers, and related computer equipment
- Public copiers
- Utilities, insurance, employee expenses (including wages, training, insurance, etc.)
- vehicle purchases and maintenance
- Facility maintenance and repairs, and security

**Will it tax every resident in the county and benefit all the county's libraries?**

- Yes, the levy will apply to all Clermont County residents, and the levy is strictly used to provide services to every resident of Clermont County in all age brackets.

**Has a previous levy expired and funds are low?**

- The previous levy was passed in 1986 and as of 2007 only provides 17% of our revenue. State funding has decreased to 74% (and is expected to continue to decrease) with other revenue at 9% of our funding. Yes, funds are low, and even with extensive cutbacks already implemented the library will not be able to sustain beyond 2013.

**What will happen if the levy fails?**

- The library will have to possibly reduce hours at all locations
- Possibly close certain locations.
- Reduce staff available to serve the public
- Reduced services such as children's programming, outreach programming
- Library at Your Door will be cancelled
- Limited library collections
- Limited access to technologies, technologies will quickly become outdated

- Additional fees added for certain materials
- New grants will not be pursued because of matching funding requirements
- Facilities will not be properly maintained
- Staff will not receive ongoing training.

The Clermont County Public Library provides the public with the best value for their dollars spent. For every \$1.00 received by the library customers receive \$4.00 back in value. The Library, especially during economic downturns, is able to provide all types of educational, literacy and recreational opportunities to all Clermont County Citizens. Except for charging \$1.00 for feature films for a 10-day loan period, all services are provided at no cost. Where else can one receive these types of benefits? Only at your local library.