



# Our Voice

## Tri-Village Local Schools

We're on our way to building for tomorrow  
**A School of Excellence**



February 2012

### What is a Permanent Improvement Levy?

Permanent Improvement funds can only be used for maintaining buildings, purchasing buses and educational equipment. It cannot be used for personnel or the day-to-day operation of the school district.

**The owner of a \$100,000 home will pay \$43.05/year with the passage of this levy or \$3.59/month.**

### What is a mill?

- The unit of value for expressing the rate of property taxes in Ohio is the mill.
- A mill is defined as one-tenth of a percent or one-tenth of a cent (0.1 cents) or \$1.00 for every \$1,000 of valuation in cash terms. Millage is the factor applied to the assessed value of property to produce tax revenue.

**Passage of the 2.5 mill levy will generate approximately \$225,000/year to maintain the building, purchase technology and busses.**

### Facts

- Purchase price of a bus in 2003 was \$43,000.
- Purchase price of a bus in 2011 was \$95,000.
- Compressor for air conditioning replacement cost = \$32,000.
- Snow removal equipment = \$17,000.
- Roof warranty will expire in 2032. It is time to save money for replacement and repair costs.
- Technology costs money, but it can generate savings. The district needs to be in a position to make technology purchases.
- Cannot control cost of school choice: E-schools, PSEOP, Open Enrollment, Dual Enrollment.
- Tri-Village has a low average per pupil cost. 70% of the schools in Ohio spend more per pupil than Tri-Village.
- Percent of budget spent on salaries has decreased from 57.54% in 2009 to 53.71% in 2012.
- The district is in the first year of a three year freeze on the base salary.
- The average annual amount of money received from the state over the last seven years has decreased 1.197% with a spike of -5.19% in 2010.
- Refinanced the bond issue to save taxpayer money.
- The district participates in consortiums to purchase products and services to save tax payer money.
- The district has not asked for more operating money on property since 1977.
- Tri-Village has some of the lowest salaries in the county.
- Tri-Village has cut 1 lunchroom aide, 1 custodian, 6 teachers, 2.5 secretaries, and 2 bus drivers in the last 8 years. There will likely be more cuts.
- Maintenance cost will increase as the building ages. Warranties have and will expire and the cost of equipment continues to increase.

**Maintain  
Excellence  
Vote  
Yes!**

*Paid for by the Maintain Excellence  
Committee, Tom Purdy Treasurer*

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:**

### **Why is the district considering a property tax such as a permanent improvement (PI) levy?**

Permanent improvement levies are passed to maintain and improve buildings, buy buses, and purchase educational equipment. The revenue cannot be used for personnel or day-to-day operation of the school district. This type of revenue can only be levied on property. There was a sense that a levy that could not be used for salaries would be viewed more favorably by the voters than levies that could be used for salaries.

### **What is the purpose of this campaign?**

The Tri-Village community built a beautiful school that is safe and conducive to learning. The mission of the school board is to maintain a safe and state-of-the-art building. However, the building is no longer new. It is almost 10 years old and the maintenance costs are beginning to increase. The warranties are expiring and the furniture and equipment that were included in the state supported building project will need to be replaced and/or repaired over time.

### **What is the history of PI levies at TV?**

The district carried 3 mills in permanent improvement money until the passage of the building bond. At that time in 2001, the PI revenue was reduced to .5 mills. The district is asking the citizens to restore the amount of PI money to 3 mills with passage of 2.5 mills.

### **Have there been reductions in millage?**

Yes, historically the county auditor has been able to reduce millage over time to protect the tax payer. The 1989 addition was passed as a 3.7 mill levy and when the bond issue was paid off in 2010 the millage had been reduced to .27 mills.

The tax payers received a 1.0 mill reduction in January 2012, because the county auditor was able to reduce the millage. The primary reason for this latest reduction in millage is because the district administration was able to reduce the interest paid on the bond issue through re-issuing bonds 1 1/2 years ago thus saving the tax payers significant money.

Please consider that when factoring in the .27 mill elimination with paying off the 1989 addition and the 1.0 mill reduction this year, then one can view the current campaign as an increase of 1.23 rather than 2.5 mills.

## **How will the money be used?**

- Keeping a state-of-the-art technology system to prepare our students for a high tech work environment will be a high priority.
- The district will continue to improve its ability to offer wireless technology thus giving more freedom for teachers and students to access high tech learning opportunities.
- The district will need to update heating and air conditioning controls and replace mechanical equipment.
- Replacement of flooring throughout the building will be a high priority.
- Window replacement and energy saving projects will also be designed and implemented.
- Improvements will include more motion sensors and low energy fixtures.
- Projects to re-point and seal bricks will preserve the life of the building.
- Parking lots will be sealed and repaired.
- The track will be resurfaced.
- Maintain a safe fleet of buses.
- Upgrade cameras in buses to insure safety of students.
- A fund to replace the roof will be started to cover the project when the warranties expire.
- Maintain a safe playground for the students with a soft play surface and replace play apparatus' that are no longer working.