1% Earned Income Levy

NOVEMBER 3, 2026 ELECTION

Community Feedback

After reviewing voter participation data and listening to feedback from our community through social media, Board of Education meetings, emails, and countless conversations, it became clear that our community was not supportive of pursuing another property tax levy.

While some residents do not support any new taxes, the reality is that changes in Ohio's school funding system have left the district with very limited options. At this time, an earned income tax is the only available path to generate the local revenue needed to continue providing the educational programs, services, and opportunities that our students and families have come to rely on.

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Structural Shift

The reduction in Ohio's state income tax, coupled with a decrease in state funding for Tallmadge City Schools, has shifted a greater share of the responsibility for funding public education to local communities.

Despite making significant budget reductions and operating as the second-lowest spending district per pupil in Summit County, Tallmadge City Schools must still generate sufficient local revenue to maintain the quality of education our community expects. As a result, the decision is no longer whether additional local funding is needed, but rather how to provide it.

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Earned Income Tax

An earned income tax provides a different path forward. Instead of increasing property taxes, it funds schools through a tax on earned income, such as wages, salaries, and self-employment income.

An earned income tax does not apply to:

- Social Security benefits
- Retirement account distributions
- Investment Income
- Unemployment Benefits
- Other Retirement Income

By broadening the local funding base beyond property ownership, an earned income tax allows those who earn income in the community to contribute to supporting the schools while helping reduce the reliance on property taxes alone.

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Impacts on our Families

The effects of the last two levy failures are no longer theoretical—they are being experienced by Tallmadge families every day.

To balance the budget, the district has:

- Eliminated high school transportation
- Reduced K–8 bus service
- Increased class sizes
- Reduced teaching positions
- Limited elective opportunities
- Made additional operational reductions

A local school earned income tax offers an opportunity to stabilize the district's finances and help prevent additional reductions that directly impact students and families. The question is no longer whether additional local funding is needed, but which funding model best reflects our community's priorities while preserving the strong schools our students deserve.

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The Future

As we move forward, the district will continue evaluating additional reductions that would be necessary if this levy is not approved in November. While those conversations are difficult, they are unavoidable.

The reality is that Ohio's school funding challenges are not improving, and without additional local revenue, Tallmadge City Schools will be forced to make further cuts that directly affect our students, families, and staff. Our hope is to preserve the educational opportunities that make Tallmadge a strong community, rather than continue reducing them.