

TAX LEVY

As you probably know, the Adams County/Ohio Valley School District is asking voters to approve a 9.4 mill emergency tax levy on November 2, 2010. The levy will provide \$3 million for five years for operating expenses.

I really can't imagine in these tough economic times that anyone would be surprised to find out the schools are suffering financially, too. The district has been making cuts and tightening its belt for some time now, including reducing staff. The most recent round of cuts have resulted in savings of over \$2 million. Unfortunately, however, that is not enough. As we look forward to the end of the 2011-2012 school year, the projected shortage is \$3.9 million.

This shortage is a result of a loss of revenue plus the rising costs of expenses. The State of Ohio is predicting an \$8.8 billion shortage in their budget, which, of course, means less state dollars for schools. Our projection is at least a 7.5% reduction in our state revenue. This is compounded by the end of the federal stimulus money we have received, which is around 6% of our total budget.

This huge budget shortage can only be handled in a couple of ways. Either the district brings in more money, makes more cuts to educational services, or some of both. The next round of cuts that must be made are cuts that will significantly impact our educational services. Even with the passage of this levy, the possibility exists that more

cuts will need to be made, but they will not be as severe and will have less effect on the quality of our services.

I would like to point out that the new buildings we recently opened have not caused or added to the budget deficit. The new buildings are much more economical to operate and maintain than the old buildings. I wanted to point this out as I have been asked this question a couple of times.

Another question being asked, of course, is “How much is this going to cost me?” A home with a market value of \$100,000.00 and a taxable value of \$35,000.00 with the 10% rollback will have an additional \$296.00 in taxes per year. This amounts to \$24.68 per month or 81 cents per day.

The district staff have been proud to be rated an “Excellent” school district by the Ohio Department of Education. The hope is to be able to continue the services that have earned the “Excellent” rating. Don’t forget to vote on November 2, 2010.

Rodney A. Wallace
Superintendent