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March 2007

May 8 election an opportunity

The West Carrollton School District is proud of the support it receives from the community. WCSD officials are hopeful that support will continue on May 8 with passage of Issue 12: a 6.5 mill, 3-year, operating levy.

Passage means the WCSD will not be back on the ballot, for any reason, until at least May 4, 2010. Delaying passage to later in 2007 does not save taxpayers money because new taxes will not be collected until January, 2008.

Unfortunately, delaying passage to later in 2007 does cause a number of changes to go into effect. (See list at right.)

“We like to say in West Carrollton that our middle name is accountable,” said Supt. Rusty Clifford, Ph.D. “We’ve been accountable systemically, academically and financially.”

Clifford points to the district’s receipt of the Ohio Award for Excellence in 2004; to the 167 percent improvement on the state report card over the last seven years; and to the careful trimming of the district budget that resulted in a \$5.1 million reduction in expenses since 2003.

“We know that we are making a difference,” Clifford said. “With your help, we will continue to make a difference in the lives of every student that comes into our school district.”

WCSD is fortunate to be part of such a quality community, he added, noting that quality is a choice, not an accident.

“The wise choice for all of us is to tell everyone we know that we are going to the polls to support the West Carrollton Schools, and then do it,” he said.

Clifford welcomes questions on the levy campaign. Contact him at 859-5121, ext. 1117 or rclifford@wcsd.k12.oh.us.

If the levy fails May 8, the following will take effect for the summer and the beginning of the 2007-2008 year:

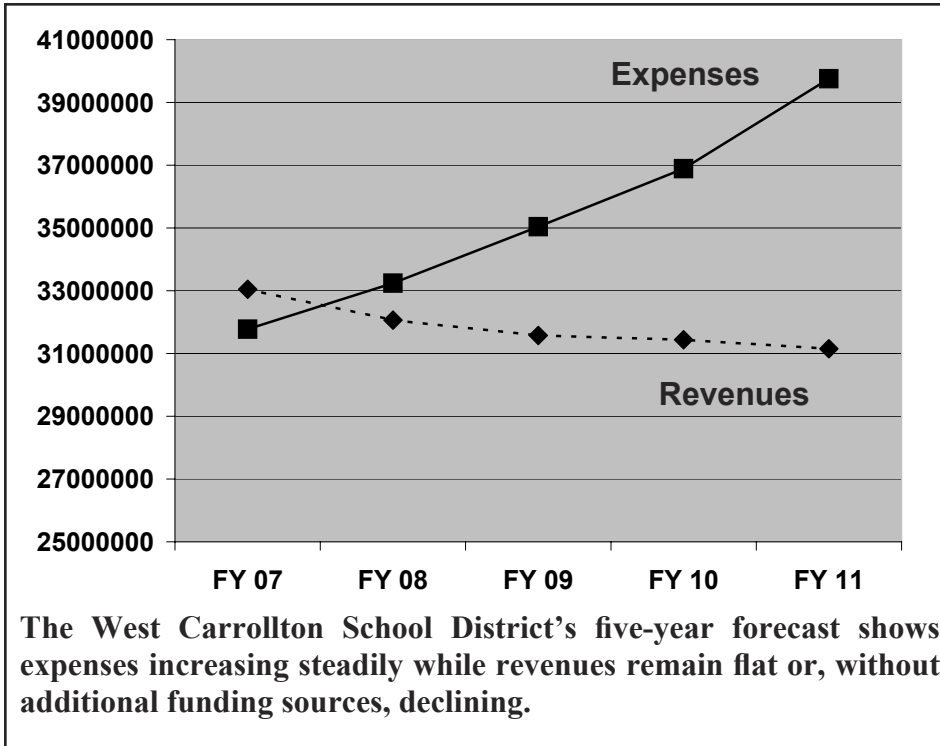
- buildings and facilities will be closed to the public including city rec leagues, day camps and activities
- NO sports
- NO band, orchestra or chorus, including band camp
- NO performing arts: concerts, plays, musicals
- NO clubs at any grade levels
- NO transportation to WCHS or any other high school
- NO transportation within 1.5 miles of WCMS and elementaries
- NO field trips
- NO before and after school daycare

If the levy passes in August or November, these effects would be reversed. If the levy does not pass in 2007, the list is PERMANENT.

WORD FILE

yes: 1. adverb, expressing agreement or consent; 2. noun, an affirmative reply, vote, etc.

Why does WCSD need more money?



What's the money for?

The 6.5 mill levy will generate approximately \$2.8 million in revenue for day to day operating expenses. Salaries and benefits account for 80 to 85 percent of those expenses for every school district in Ohio.

In West Carrollton, 82 percent of the general fund budget goes to salaries and benefits.

"We are a people business," Clifford said, "and we continue to balance staffing and enrollment levels."

The owner of a \$100,000 home will pay an additional \$199 in taxes -- but not until January 2008. This is true no matter when in 2007 the levy passes. Waiting until November does not save you money.

If the levy passes on May 8, the district will not be on the ballot for any reason until at least May 4, 2010.

Learn more at www.westcarrolltonschools.com.

School districts in Ohio are on fixed incomes and expenses continue to increase. The fixed income status is a result of House Bill 920 which was passed in 1976 to protect property owners from unvoted tax increases.

When voters approve a tax levy, they agree to pay a specific amount of money for a specific purpose over a specific time period. A homeowner's share of that amount depends on how much their home is worth.

Reappraisal of properties – which took place in 2006 – means the collection of the same amount of taxes by redistributing the property taxes to be collected. Some property owners pay more, some less and some the same.

While the total tax dollars raised stays the same because schools are on a fixed income, an individual taxpayer's share will be based on his new property value. In this way, House Bill 920 equalizes the burden of a voted tax.

If you have questions about the levy or would like to help with the campaign, contact Supt. Rusty Clifford, Ph.D., at 859-5121, ext. 1117 or rclifford@wcsd.k12.oh.us

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