



Lake County, Ohio



Lake County Board of Commissioners

Jennifer Bell, Clerk

105 Main Street

Painesville, OH 44077

(440) 350-2751

Jennifer.Bell@lakecountyohio.gov

PRESS RELEASE

DATE: June 22, 2017

Lake County senior services levy set to expire

(PAINESVILLE, OH) – The Board of Lake County Commissioners approved a resolution to place an issue on the November 7th ballot. The issue seeks to renew the existing 0.5 mills senior services levy and add 0.3 mills to help address the increased need for senior services.

The senior services levy currently generates \$2.8 million and is set to expire December 31, 2017. The additional 0.3 mills will help fill the critical gaps that exist due to the growing number of senior citizens in Lake County, and will cost taxpayers an additional 87 cents per month per \$100,000 home value.

“As the number of seniors continues to grow in Lake County so do the needs of those very same seniors. This levy will allow the services to expand to not only assist seniors as we have in the past but also to meet growing needs including necessary protections for this sometimes very vulnerable population,” said Commissioner Jerry Cirino, President of the Board of Lake County Commissioners. “The voters should enthusiastically support this levy and I will do everything I can to assist.”

Almost one quarter of Lake County’s population is 60 and older. By 2030, this group’s population share will increase to nearly 34%, outnumbering youth 20 years and younger. Lake County’s fastest growing subgroup, 85 years and older, is estimated to increase 55% between 2010 and 2030. This expected growth in Lake County outpaces that of the state.

As the County ages, disability, chronic disease, elder abuse and neglect, accessible housing, isolation, and inadequate nutrition will continue to present challenges. “Over the last few years, we have spent a lot of time and study assessing the critical needs and issues that our growing senior population in Lake County will be facing. The revenue generated by this Senior Services levy will be essential to properly address those needs and issues. Our seniors have spent their lives helping make Lake County a wonderful place; let’s protect them and help maintain their dignity and quality of life in return,” said Commissioner Daniel Troy. “Passage of this levy is necessary to achieve that goal.”

The senior levy currently funds home delivered and congregate meals, case management services, maintenance and modification projects, health & wellness activities and socialization opportunities at the local seniors centers, as well as volunteer opportunities for seniors. Additional funds may be used to enhance adult protective services and adult guardianship services, as well as allow for new programs such as personal care assistance.

“Federal funding for senior programs remains flat and the cost to maintain services is increasing. For less than a dollar per month, we can protect and expand the services our vulnerable, elderly citizens need to remain safe and healthy. Many seniors do not have family that can care for them and we must do our part to make sure no one falls through the cracks,” said Commissioner John Hamercheck.

For more information, please contact the Senior Services Coordinator, Alyea Barajas, at 440-350-2748.