

## MADISON TOWNSHIP

# Trustees support LCTA letter

## Opposes abolition of property tax

BY BILL DEBUS

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Madison Township trustees have expressed their support for a letter written by a local government group that opposes a proposed constitutional amendment to eliminate property taxes in Ohio.

Trustees, at a recent meeting, unanimously accepted a letter from the Lake County Township Association regarding efforts that are taking place statewide to abolish property taxes.

A grassroots group is aiming to place an initiative on the November 2026 General Election ballot that would eliminate property taxes by amending the Ohio Constitution. This entity is known as The Committee to Abolish Ohio Property Taxes.

The group must submit petitions bearing the valid signatures of about 413,000 registered voters — and meet a few other requirements — for the issue to become a ballot question.

The Lake County Township Association, in a July 7 letter, stated that it opposes the petition drive in Ohio seeking the abolition of taxes on real property, which includes land and any buildings or structures permanently attached to it.

“While we support reform of property taxes, this measure would result in the closure of all township government and the services they provide,” the association wrote. “Seeking reform through the elimination of specific funding sources for township governments, with no method of alternate, is reckless.”

The association consists of Concord, Leroy, Madison, Painesville and Perry townships.

Property taxes fund approximately \$22 billion for entities across the state, according to the association.

“The services these taxes fund are important to our communities,” the association wrote.

Property tax reform will focus on generation of similar amounts through other taxing methods, the association stated.

“This will increase the burden on income, sales or other taxes currently paid by taxpayers in Ohio,” the association stated.

In addition, the association noted that a reform of how local government is funded must originate in the state legislature.

“The last 20 years have seen tax reform at the state level, which has reduced funding for local government, resulting in an increase of local taxes through new levies approved by voters to maintain necessary levels of service,” the association wrote. The association stated that it encourages the state legislature to examine the issue of local government funding and property taxes.

“We support reform which does not place more burden on local government to raise taxes,” the association wrote.

Some of the ideas that the association suggested to Ohio lawmakers included meaningful reform to the Homestead Exemption to provide relief for senior citizens; and school funding reform, especially involving the 20-mill tax floor calculation for school districts, which has created a spike in unvoted property tax increases.

One of the proponents of the petition drive to abolish Ohio property taxes is Timberlake Village Mayor John Marra.

In fact, Marra is one of five members of the committee that represents the petitioners throughout Ohio.

Marra wrote an Another Viewpoint column in The News-Herald in June, emphasizing the need to abolish property taxes in Ohio.

Marra said the movement to eliminate property taxes “isn’t about gutting services — it’s about replacing a broken, valuation-based model with one based on population and usage.”

“Local services can be billed as utilities,” he said. “Schools can be funded through state-level income taxes, luxury sales taxes or transaction fees — mechanisms that are voter-approved, tied to actual income or spending, and constitutionally sound.”

Marra added that Ohioans “must stop confusing forced taxation with civic responsibility.”

“If we want to protect seniors, young families and working Ohioans, we need to stop treating homeownership as a taxable event and start funding public services the right way — fairly, equitably and constitutionally,” he said.

Marra said the proposed constitutional amendment “doesn’t strip funding, it restores ownership.”

“It says that once you’ve paid off your home, you shouldn’t live in fear of losing it over a tax bill,” he said. “That’s a principle Ohioans across the political spectrum can support.”