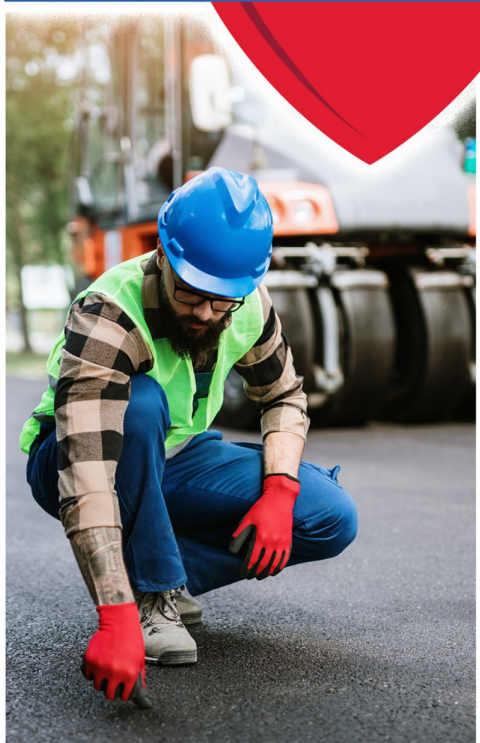




OHIOANS TO PROTECT PUBLIC SERVICES



The Challenge...

INITIATIVE PETITION
Amendment to the Constitution
Proposed by Initiative Petition
To be submitted directly to the electors

To the Attorney General of Ohio: Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code §3519.01(A), the undersigned electors of the State of Ohio, numbering in excess of one thousand, hereby submit to you the full text of a proposed Amendment to the Ohio Constitution and a summary of the same.

Abolishment of Taxes on Real Property

AMENDMENT SUMMARY

The proposed amendment would add Section 14 to Article XII of the Constitution of the State of Ohio. The proposed amendment would abolish taxes on real property and prohibit any future taxes on real property. As used in this Section, "real property" includes land itself, all growing crops therein, and all buildings, structures, and improvements permanently attached to the land. This amendment shall take effect on the first day of the year after it passes.

CERTIFICATION OF THE OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL

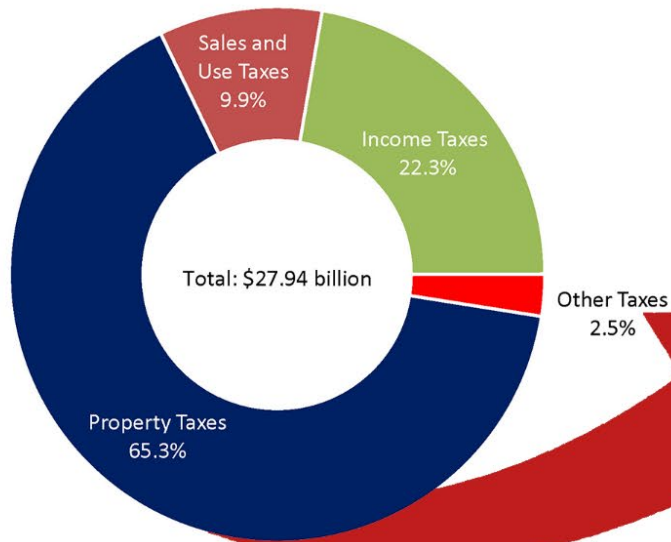
This certification of the Ohio Attorney General, pursuant to Ohio Revised Code §3519.01(A), will be inserted when it is provided. This initiative petition must be submitted with at least one thousand (1,000) valid signatures of Ohio electors before the Ohio Attorney General will issue that certification.

COMMITTEE TO REPRESENT THE PETITIONERS

Decimation.

Ohio's local governments rely heavily on property taxes

Ohio's Local Tax Revenue by Source, FY 2021



Source: U.S. Census Bureau's Annual Survey of Local Government Finances

- In to \$1
- Pr a a

65.3% OF ALL LOCAL TAX REVENUE COMES FROM PROPERTY TAXES.


Decimation.

- Local property taxes produce \$21 billion annually. For perspective, that's about equal to all state income and sales taxes combined.
- The property tax amendment takes effect almost immediately and offers no transition or replacement plan!!



IMPACT: In THEIR Words



To: Governor Mike DeWine
From: Kimberly Murnieks 
Date: February 4, 2026
Re: Consequences of Local Property Tax Abolishment

A [proposed constitutional amendment](#) would eliminate property taxes in Ohio and permanently ban them statewide, cutting off a critical source of funding for local schools, police and fire departments.

“As this analysis demonstrates, a constitutional amendment to abolish local property taxes, with no plan to replace the lost revenues, would quite literally **“defund” the police – and fire departments, schools, libraries, senior centers, and other local government services – in our communities statewide.**”

essential services, reducing or eliminating funding for local law enforcement, first responders, and schools, delaying road and infrastructure repairs, and threatening services for seniors and people with disabilities.

Catastrophic Impacts on Essential Local Services: Local property taxes support approximately [65 percent of local tax revenue in Ohio](#). If eliminated, specific effects would include:

- **Public Education:** Roughly three-fifths of the local property tax revenue collected each year supports local school districts. If local property taxes were abolished, schools would be forced to lay off thousands of personnel, leading to larger class sizes school closings, and program cuts.
- **Police, Fire, and EMS:** Local safety forces rely heavily on property tax levies; repeal would lead to station closures especially in smaller communities and townships, dramatically reduced staffing, and slower emergency response times.
- **Libraries, Parks, Health and Human Services, Senior Supports:** These services, funded through local levies, would face severe cuts or elimination, reducing community quality of



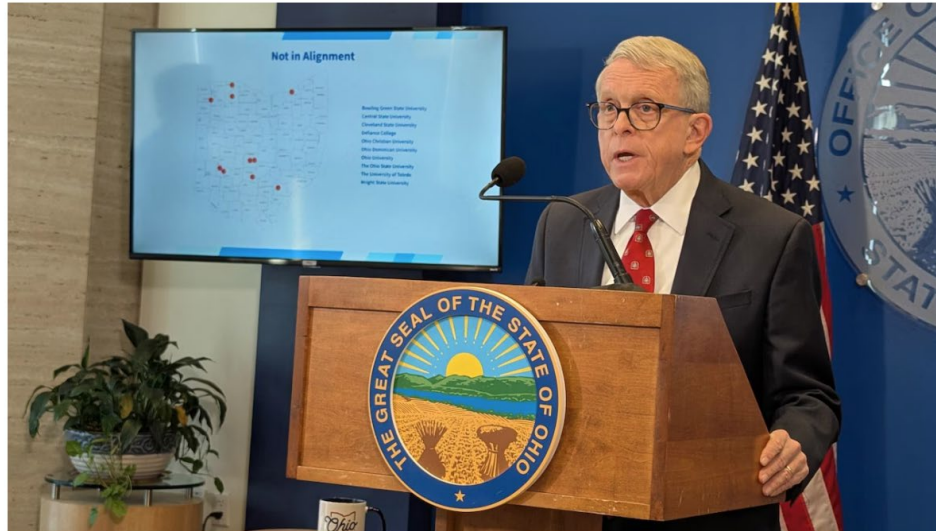
IMPACT: In THEIR Words



OHIO POLITICS

DeWine warns sales tax could hit 20% if property taxes abolished

Updated: Feb. 05, 2026, 3:54 p.m. | Published: Feb. 05, 2026, 1:54 p.m.



Gov. DeWine says Ohio would face a revenue crisis if voters approve a proposed constitutional amendment eliminating property taxes. Jeremy Pelzer, cleveland.com



IMPACT: In **THEIR** Words



TAX FOUNDATION

“The only responsible way to consider property tax abolition is to grapple with the alternatives.”

“Every possible replacement option has a host of problems that would render it undesirable to most taxpayers.”

“**Doing away with the property tax may be popular. Replacing it won’t be.**”

- There’s No Good Way to Pay for Property Tax Repeal, October 2025



IMPACT: In **THEIR** Words



“You know, the number one question we get is ... ‘how are you going to replace all of these property taxes anywhere from 20 to 24 billion that we have heard?’

And our first answer is: **we’re not going to replace it.** What we are looking for is we are looking for government to be cut their spending – cut spending is what we are pushing for.”

- Brian Massie, Ax OH Tax



Will They **MAKE THE BALLOT?**



Ohio property tax repeal campaign says it's halfway to ballot goal

Updated: Apr. 23, 2026, 8:23 p.m. | Published: Apr. 23, 2026, 3:17 p.m.

“Campaigns looking to amend Ohio’s constitution have until July 1 to submit at least 413,488 valid signatures to qualify for the 2026 ballot. ... Massie said the group will decide by mid-June whether it has enough support to move forward this year or wait and try again in 2027.”



Will They **MAKE THE BALLOT?**

In their favor:

- ✓ Voter frustration on this issue is sky-high
- ✓ Short and simple petition language
- ✓ No alternative = nothing to pick apart
- ✓ Statewide activist network



Will They **MAKE THE BALLOT?**

Working against them:

- x Challenging signature requirements**
- x No professionals involved**
- x No money backing them (that we can see)**
- x Strong coalition has formed to oppose the concept**



Will They **MAKE THE BALLOT?**

Regardless of what happens **this** year, this issue isn't going away. We can expect property tax reform to be front-and-center on the minds of voters and politicians alike in the months ahead.



To the **RESCUE**

Ohioans to Protect Public Services is a broad-based statewide coalition of **more than 65 organizations** including representatives of police, fire, and emergency medical personnel; educators; caregivers for seniors, children and people with disabilities; health care providers; libraries; parks; business and labor; local elected officials; Democrats and Republicans.



To the **RESCUE**

Ohio A. Philip Randolph Institute (APRI)

AFSCME Ohio Council 8

Alliance for High Quality Education

Associated General Contractors of Ohio

Association of Ohio Health Commissioners

Buckeye Association of School Administrators

Buckeye State Sheriffs' Association

Cincinnati Parent Empowerment Network (CPEN)

Cleveland-Cuyahoga County Port Authority

Coalition of Black Trade Unionists - Region 5

Coalition of Large Ohio Urban Townships

Coalition of Ohio Rural and Appalachian Schools

Columbus Chamber of Commerce

Communications Workers of America

County Auditors' Association of Ohio

County Commissioners Association of Ohio

County Engineers Association of Ohio

Cuyahoga County Mayors and City Managers Association

Emergency Management Association of Ohio

Greater Cleveland Partnership

Honesty for Ohio Education

Northeast Ohio Mayors and City Managers Association

Northern Ohioans for Budget Legislation Equality

Ohio AFL-CIO

Ohio Alliance for Retired Americans Educational Fund

Ohio Association of Area Agencies of Aging

Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police

Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities

Ohio Assoc. of County Boards of Developmental Disabilities

Ohio Association of Professional Firefighters

Ohio Association of Public School Employees

Ohio Association of School Business Officials

Ohio Association of Senior Centers

Ohio Business Roundtable



To the **RESCUE**

Ohio Chapter, American Society of Landscape Architects

Ohio Children's Hospital Association

Ohio Civil Service Employees Association

Ohio Clerk of Courts Association

Ohio Coalition on Black Civic Participation

Ohio Conference of the American Assoc. of Univ. Professors

Ohio Contractors Association

Ohio Council of Behavioral Health & Family Services Providers

Ohio Council of County Officials

Ohio Council of Retail Merchants

Ohio Education Association

Ohio Environmental Council

Ohio Equal Rights

Ohio Federation of Teachers

Ohio Fire Chiefs' Association

Ohio Hospital Association

Ohio Job and Family Services Directors' Association

Ohio Library Council

Ohio Manufacturers' Association

Ohio Mayors Alliance

Ohio Municipal League

Ohio Nurses Association

Ohio Parks and Recreation Association

Ohio Realtors

Ohio School Boards Association

Ohio State Building & Construction Trades Council

Ohio State Coroners Association

Ohio Township Association

Ohio Travel Association

Parents United for Public Schools

Public Children Services Association of Ohio

The Ohio 8 Coalition

OUR GOAL

Persuade most Ohioans to agree with the following statement:

Property taxes are a serious concern, but this is not a viable solution and ***must be rejected.***



KEY MESSAGES

1. *Property taxes are a serious concern, but abolishing them altogether with no replacement plan is not a viable solution.*
2. Abolishing property taxes will trigger **big hikes in income and sales taxes.**
3. **Public safety** is on the **chopping block.**
4. There is no way to eliminate property taxes without **cutting classrooms** and **hurting school children.**
5. This **hurts seniors** — directly and immediately.
6. It **guts services** for **Ohioans with developmental disabilities.**
7. It's catastrophic for **at-risk kids and families** who depend on county services.



KEY MESSAGES (Continued)

8. Local **library, park, and health district budgets** will be gutted.
9. **Economic development** initiatives will be thwarted.
10. It **wipes out stable local funding** and forces reliance on less stable taxes that crash in downturns — just when needs rise.
11. It **undermines local control** and accountability.
12. It creates **legal and financial fallout** that will **cost taxpayers more**.
13. **VOIDS specific voter-approved road and bridge levies** to fund local roadway construction and maintenance in areas covering more than half of Ohio's population.



OUR UNIFIED MESSAGE

Members of our broad-based coalition fully recognize the need for property tax reform. However, abruptly eliminating two thirds of all tax revenue for critical local services, with no plan to replace the lost revenue, is not the way to do it.

Every Ohioan relies daily on essential services that are funded by property taxes — police, fire, and EMS services, road maintenance, senior care, public schools, services for at-risk kids and those with developmental disabilities, local parks, and more.

Abolishing property taxes sounds good on the surface. But doing so without a plan for what comes next will only create chaos and trigger big increases in sales and income taxes, drastic reductions in local services, or both.

WEBSITE

Services Basic Facts Tools About Us

OHIOANS TO PROTECT
PUBLIC SERVICES

Get Involved



**Don't
Gamble
with
Ohio's
Future**

**Eliminating property
taxes sounds simple.**

**In reality, it creates
chaos that will hurt
every family, every
community, and every
paycheck.**

WEBSITE

[Services](#) [Basic Facts](#) [Tools](#) [About Us](#)



[Get Involved](#)

Tools

Watch and Share the Video "Ohio Property Tax Bingo"

[Click here to watch & share](#)

Share the Facts

[Download social media graphics](#)

[Download and print campaign flyers](#)

[Download "What Really Happens?" 1-pager](#)

Like & Follow Ohioans to Protect Public Services

[in](#) [f](#) [X](#)

Learn More

["Catastrophic Impacts on Local Services"](#) - Ohio Department of Budget Management Memo to Governor Mike DeWine

["Ohio Property tax repeal would gut budgets & critical services"](#) - Policy Matters Ohio

SOCIAL SHARE GRAPHICS



SENIORS SERVICES ARE AT RISK FOR 1,000'S

SENIOR CITIZENS
OHIOANS TO PROTECT PUBLIC SERVICES

PAID FOR BY OHIOANS TO PROTECT PUBLIC SERVICES

This graphic features a photograph of an elderly man sitting on a chair, looking down at his hands. The text is overlaid on the left side in white and teal. A teal shield icon with a white cross is positioned above the organization's name.



50,000 TEACHERS COULD BE LET GO
1.4 MILLION OHIO STUDENTS AFFECTED

SCHOOLS
OHIOANS TO PROTECT PUBLIC SERVICES

PAID FOR BY OHIOANS TO PROTECT PUBLIC SERVICES

This graphic features a photograph of a woman standing in a classroom. The text is overlaid on the right side in white and yellow. A yellow shield icon with a white graduation cap is positioned above the organization's name.



FUNDING FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS WITH DISABILITIES DISAPPEARS

SPECIAL NEEDS
OHIOANS TO PROTECT PUBLIC SERVICES

PAID FOR BY OHIOANS TO PROTECT PUBLIC SERVICES

This graphic features a photograph of a woman and a young boy smiling together. The text is overlaid on the right side in white and purple. A purple shield icon with a white person silhouette is positioned above the organization's name.

FLYERS | ALL-PURPOSE

OHIOANS TO PROTECT PUBLIC SERVICES

WHAT REALLY HAPPENS IF WE ABOLISH ALL OHIO PROPERTY TAXES?

- ! Big hikes in sales and income taxes – as high as 20%
- ! Massive cuts to police/fire/EMS/911 – fewer first responders, longer response times, out-of-date equipment
- ! Drastic cuts to local schools – bigger classes, fewer teachers, aging infrastructure
- ! Vital services eliminated for seniors, children, and Ohioans with disabilities

Rising property taxes are a serious concern, but abolishing them abruptly means every local community will immediately face massive cuts in services.

Property taxes make up nearly two-thirds of all local tax revenue, and to eliminate them altogether with no plan for what comes next is just reckless.



IMPACT: PUBLIC SAFETY

Directly hitting core safety services – police, fire, EMS, and 911 – the entire emergency response service will be weakened as a result:

- > Estimated layoffs of more than 32,000 police officers, firefighters, paramedics, dispatchers, and other first responders
- > Longer response times for fires, ambulance runs, accidents, and incidents
- > Outdated lifesaving equipment, increasing risks to both victims and rescuers
- > Reduced training
- > Police and fire station closures
- > Fewer police cars, fire trucks, and ambulances in service



IMPACT: SCHOOLS

Property taxes are the biggest source of funding for Ohio's public schools. Abolishing them will result in the largest school funding cut in Ohio history – just over \$13 billion. **Eliminating property taxes will be the largest school funding cut in history.**

- > 50,000+ teachers laid off, impacting 1.4 million students
- > Larger class sizes and cuts to athletics, arts, busing, career-tech, and gifted programs
- > Fewer special education professionals, counselors, coaches, bus drivers, custodians, and food service workers
- > Reduced funding for essential repairs like roof replacements, HVAC systems, and safety upgrades, leading to deteriorating facilities, higher long-term costs, and unsafe learning environments



IMPACT: SENIORS

Critical senior services are supported by property taxes in 74 of Ohio's 88 counties. What's at risk includes essential services such as:

- > Home-delivered meals
- > In-home care and personal assistance
- > Transportation and adult day services
- > Home repair and accessibility modifications
- > Care coordination, wellness, and social programs
- > Telephone reassurance and safety monitoring
- > Local senior center closures or reduction of services
- > Diminished ability to investigate cases of abuse and neglect of Ohio's 2.8 million seniors
- > Thousands of seniors could be forced into higher-cost nursing facilities sooner

ProtectPublicServices.org

OHIOANS TO PROTECT PUBLIC SERVICES

WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING

Here's what experts say about abolishing all property taxes with no plan to offset them:

Ohio Office of Budget & Management

- "If replacement income taxes were levied locally, then the income tax rate would need to reach 27 percent in some counties."
- "Replacing local property would require state sales tax rates approaching 15–18 percent, significantly higher than any other state."
- "A constitutional amendment to abolish local property taxes, with no plan to replace the lost revenues, would quite literally defund the police – and fire departments, schools, libraries, senior centers, and other local government services – in our communities statewide."

— Ohio Office of Budget & Management Memo, February 4, 2026

Policy Matters Ohio

- "[Replacing property tax revenue] would require gigantic increases in other taxes. Doubling the state sales tax, from 5.75% to 11.5%, would be insufficient..."
- "To fully recover the loss, Ohio's sales tax would have to increase by nearly 7 cents on the dollar, pushing our average combined sales tax rate above 14% — far and away the highest in the nation."

— Ohio Property Tax Repeal Would Gut School Budgets & Critical Services, January 2026

The Tax Foundation

- "The only responsible way to consider property tax abolition is to grapple with the alternatives."
- "Every possible replacement option has a host of problems that would render it undesirable to most taxpayers."
- "Doing away with the property tax may be popular. Replacing it won't be."

— There's No Good Way to Pay for Property Tax Repeal, October 2025

Governor Mike DeWine

Governor Mike DeWine told reporters that Ohio's income tax rates, now the second lowest in the nation among states with income taxes, could jump to "an astronomical figure."

He said that if the state sales tax was increased to make up for the loss, the state could see a "20% sales tax in the state of Ohio on products you buy. It would be absolutely devastating."

— Governor Mike DeWine, February 26, 2026

Ohioans to Protect Public Services

Ohioans to Protect Public Services is a broad-based statewide coalition of more than 55 organizations, including representatives of police, fire, and emergency medical personnel; educators; caregivers for seniors, children and people with disabilities; health care providers; libraries; parks; business and labor; local elected officials; Democrats and Republicans. See a full list of coalition members at www.ProtectPublicServices.com.

Sources:
Ohio Office of Budget and Management, "Consequences of Local Property Tax Abolishment," February 4, 2026
Tax Foundation, "There's No Good Way to Pay for Property Tax Repeal," October 2025
Policy Matters Ohio, "Ohio Property Tax Repeal Would Gut School Budgets & Critical Services," January 27, 2026
All reports available at ProtectPublicServices.org

FLYERS | TOPIC SPECIFIC



WHAT REALLY HAPPENS IF WE ABOLISH ALL OHIO PROPERTY TAXES?

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- Massive cuts to police/fire/EMS/911 – fewer first responders, longer response times, out-of-date equipment
- Drastic cuts to local schools – bigger classes, fewer teachers, aging infrastructure
- Vital services eliminated for seniors, children, and Ohioans with disabilities

Rising property taxes are a serious concern, but abolishing them abruptly means every local community will immediately face massive cuts in services.

Property taxes make up nearly two-thirds of all local tax revenue, and to eliminate them altogether with no plan for what comes next is just reckless.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR PUBLIC SAFETY?

More than 10 million Ohioans rely on public safety services funded by voted property tax levies. This includes police, fire and emergency medical services, 911 call centers and more. All of this will be wiped out if the levies are eliminated. Impacts include:

- 1 Estimated layoffs of more than 32,000 police officers, firefighters, paramedics, dispatchers, and other first responders
- 1 Longer response times for fires, ambulance runs, accidents, and incidents
- 1 Outdated lifesaving equipment, increasing risks to both victims and rescuers
- 1 Reduced training
- 1 Police and fire station closures
- 1 Fewer police cars, fire trucks, and ambulances in service



Sources:
Ohio Office of Budget and Management, "Consequences of Local Property Tax Abolishment," February 4, 2026
Tax Foundation, "There's No Good Way to Pay for Property Tax Repeat," October 2025
Policy Matters Ohio, "Ohio Property Tax Repeat Would Gut School Budgets & Critical Services," January 27, 2026
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ProtectPublicServices.org

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February 4, 2026
January 27, 2026

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February 4, 2026
January 27, 2026

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February 4, 2026
January 27, 2026

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February 4, 2026
January 27, 2026

Ohio's ADAMH (Alcohol, Drugs, and Mental Health) boards serve all 88 counties and are required by law to provide prevention, treatment, and recovery services. Nearly every ADAMH Board has voter-approved property tax levies; eliminating property taxes would collapse Ohio's safety net for addiction treatment and mental health services.

These voter-approved dollars fund critical services, including:

- 1 Crisis response – mobile crisis teams, walk-in crisis centers, and behavioral health urgent care facilities
- 1 Prevention programs that help young people build resilience and reduce the risk of future substance misuse or mental illness
- 1 Family support – caregiver education, peer support, and housing for people transitioning out of treatment
- 1 Specialized programs for veterans, older adults, and individuals involved in the criminal justice system



Sources:
Ohio Office of Budget and Management, "Consequences of Local Property Tax Abolishment," February 4, 2026
Tax Foundation, "There's No Good Way to Pay for Property Tax Repeat," October 2025
Policy Matters Ohio, "Ohio Property Tax Repeat Would Gut School Budgets & Critical Services," January 27, 2026
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February 4, 2026
January 27, 2026



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February 4, 2026
January 27, 2026

FLYERS | TOPIC SPECIFIC

TOP HALF



OHIOANS TO PROTECT PUBLIC SERVICES

WHAT **REALLY** HAPPENS IF WE ABOLISH ALL OHIO PROPERTY TAXES?

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FLYERS | TOPIC SPECIFIC

BOTTOM HALF

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR OHIOANS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES?

For the nearly 117,000 Ohioans with developmental disabilities and their families who rely on local services, property taxes cover anywhere from 75% to 85% of the budget for each county board of developmental disabilities. Without this revenue, the statewide DD system collapses.

- ! No early intervention services for infants and toddlers
- ! No preschool and K-12 special education supports
- ! No federal Medicaid matching dollars, forfeiting \$628 million each year
- ! No more Medicaid waiver services, including personal care, nursing, employment supports, transportation, and family respite
- ! Elimination of case management services that ensure health, safety, and accountability for individuals receiving services



Sources:

Ohio Office of Budget and Management, "Consequences of Local Property Tax Abolishment," February 4, 2026
Tax Foundation, "There's No Good Way to Pay for Property Tax Repeal," October 2025
Policy Matters Ohio, "Ohio Property Tax Repeal Would Gut School Budgets & Critical Services," January 27, 2026
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