

Kenston school district to place 1.35-mill permanent improvement levy on ballot

STAFF REPORTS

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The Kenston Board of Education recently approved the second of two resolutions to place a five-year, 1.35-mill permanent improvement (PI) levy on the Nov. 7 ballot.

The levy's purpose, according to a school district press release, is for "capital improvement projects, maintenance and repairs, technology and wireless improvements, and safety and security upgrades with a lifespan of five years or more that are essential for district operation."

"We are accountable to our taxpayers and want to be good stewards of the tax dollars entrusted to us," Superintendent Steven Sayers said in the press release. "Should the community choose to support the PI levy, the district will communicate the need, use and effectiveness of these funds before seeking renewal five years down the road."

The levy's estimated annual collection is \$1.265 million.

It will cost homeowners about \$47 annually, for five years, for each \$100,000 of their home's appraised value, according to the county auditor.

If the levy passes with a majority affirmative vote, the tax collection will begin in 2024.

The PI levy must be certified by the Geauga County Board of Elections by Aug. 9 to appear on the November ballot.

Mr. Sayers said at a previous board meeting that Kenston is among 13% of Ohio school districts that do not presently have a permanent improvement or maintenance-type levy.

PI funds may be used for items such as school buses, repairs to roofs and parking lots, boilers, safety and security upgrades, classroom furniture, technology upgrades and improvements, wireless upgrades, etc., that have a life span of five years or more.

They may not be used for operating costs such as salaries, benefits or the school district day-to-day operations.