



Ohio Revised Code

Section 133.18 Submission of question of issuance of general obligation bonds to electors.

Effective: January 1, 2026

Legislation: House Bill 96

(A) The taxing authority of a subdivision may by legislation submit to the electors of the subdivision the question of issuing any general obligation bonds, for one purpose, that the subdivision has power or authority to issue.

(B) When the taxing authority of a subdivision desires or is required by law to submit the question of a bond issue to the electors, it shall pass legislation that does all of the following:

- (1) Declares the necessity and purpose of the bond issue;
- (2) States the date of the authorized election at which the question shall be submitted to the electors;
- (3) States the amount, approximate date, estimated net average rate of interest, and maximum number of years over which the principal of the bonds may be paid;
- (4) Declares the necessity of levying a tax outside the tax limitation to pay the debt charges on the bonds and any anticipatory securities.

The estimated net average interest rate shall be determined by the taxing authority based on, among other factors, then existing market conditions, and may reflect adjustments for any anticipated direct payments expected to be received by the taxing authority from the government of the United States relating to the bonds and the effect of any federal tax credits anticipated to be available to owners of all or a portion of the bonds. The estimated net average rate of interest, and any statutory or charter limit on interest rates that may then be in effect and that is subsequently amended, shall not be a limitation on the actual interest rate or rates on the securities when issued.

(C) The taxing authority shall certify a copy of the legislation passed under division (B) of this section to the county auditor. The county auditor shall promptly calculate and advise and, not later



than ninety days before the election, confirm that advice by certification to the taxing authority the estimated average annual property tax levy, expressed in dollars for each one hundred thousand dollars of the county auditor's market value and in mills for each one dollar of taxable value, that the county auditor estimates to be required throughout the stated maturity of the bonds to pay the debt charges on the bonds. In calculating the estimated average annual property tax levy for this purpose, the county auditor shall assume that the bonds are issued in one series bearing interest and maturing in substantially equal principal amounts in each year over the maximum number of years over which the principal of the bonds may be paid as stated in that legislation, and that the amount of the tax valuation of the subdivision most recently certified by the county auditor under division (A) of section 319.28 of the Revised Code remains the same throughout the maturity of the bonds. If the subdivision is located in more than one county, the county auditor shall obtain the assistance of the county auditors of the other counties, and those county auditors shall provide assistance, in establishing the tax valuation of the subdivision for purposes of certifying the estimated average annual property tax levy.

(D) After receiving the county auditor's advice under division (C) of this section, the taxing authority by legislation may determine to proceed with submitting the question of the issue of securities, and shall, not later than the ninetieth day before the day of the election, file the following with the board of elections:

(1) Copies of the legislation provided for in divisions (B) and (D) of this section;

(2) The amount of the estimated average annual property tax levy, expressed in dollars for each one hundred thousand dollars of the county auditor's market value and in mills for each one dollar of taxable value, as estimated and certified to the taxing authority by the county auditor.

(E)(1) The board of elections shall prepare the ballots and make other necessary arrangements for the submission of the question to the electors of the subdivision. If the subdivision is located in more than one county, the board shall inform the boards of elections of the other counties of the filings with it, and those other boards shall if appropriate make the other necessary arrangements for the election in their counties. The election shall be conducted, canvassed, and certified in the manner provided in Title XXXV of the Revised Code.



(2) The election shall be held at the regular places for voting in the subdivision. If the electors of only a part of a precinct are qualified to vote at the election the board of elections may assign the electors in that part to an adjoining precinct, including an adjoining precinct in another county if the board of elections of the other county consents to and approves the assignment. Each elector so assigned shall be notified of that fact prior to the election by notice mailed by the board of elections, in such manner as it determines, prior to the election.

(3) The board of elections shall publish a notice of the election once in a newspaper of general circulation in the subdivision, no later than ten days prior to the election. The notice shall state all of the following:

(a) The principal amount of the proposed bond issue;

(b) The stated purpose for which the bonds are to be issued;

(c) The maximum number of years over which the principal of the bonds may be paid;

(d) The estimated additional average annual property tax levy, expressed in dollars for each one hundred thousand dollars of the county auditor's market value and in mills for each one dollar of taxable value, to be levied outside the tax limitation, as estimated and certified to the taxing authority by the county auditor;

(e) The first calendar year in which the tax is expected to be due.

(F) The form of the ballot to be used at the election shall be substantially either of the following, as applicable:

(1) "Shall bonds be issued by the _____ (name of subdivision) for the purpose of _____ (purpose of the bond issue) in the principal amount of \$_____ (principal amount of the bond issue), to be repaid annually over a maximum period of _____ (the maximum number of years over which the principal of the bonds may be paid) years, and an annual levy of property taxes be made outside the _____ (as applicable, "ten-mill" or "___charter tax") limitation, estimated by the county auditor to average over the repayment period of the bond issue



_____ mills for each \$1 of taxable value, which amounts to \$_____ for each \$100,000 of the county auditor's market value, commencing in _____ (first year the tax will be levied), first due in calendar year _____ (first calendar year in which the tax shall be due), to pay the annual debt charges on the bonds, and to pay debt charges on any notes issued in anticipation of those bonds?

	<cp-base></cp-base><cp-base>For the bond issue</cp-base>	
	<cp-base></cp-base><cp-base>Against the bond issue</cp-base>	<cp-base>"</cp-base>

(2) In the case of an election held pursuant to legislation adopted under section 3375.43 or 3375.431 of the Revised Code:

"Shall bonds be issued for _____ (name of library) for the purpose of _____ (purpose of the bond issue), in the principal amount of \$_____ (amount of the bond issue) by _____ (the name of the subdivision that is to issue the bonds and levy the tax) as the issuer of the bonds, to be repaid annually over a maximum period of _____ (the maximum number of years over which the principal of the bonds may be paid) years, and an annual levy of property taxes be made outside the ten-mill limitation, estimated by the county auditor to average over the repayment period of the bond issue _____ mills for each \$1 of taxable value, which amounts to \$_____ for each \$100,000 of the county auditor's market value, commencing in _____ (first year the tax will be levied), first due in calendar year _____ (first calendar year in which the tax shall be due), to pay the annual debt charges on the bonds, and to pay debt charges on any notes issued in anticipation of those bonds?

	<cp-base></cp-base><cp-base>For the bond issue</cp-base>	
	<cp-base></cp-base><cp-base>Against the bond issue</cp-base>	<cp-base>"</cp-base>

(G) The board of elections shall promptly certify the results of the election to the tax commissioner, the county auditor of each county in which any part of the subdivision is located, and the fiscal



officer of the subdivision. The election, including the proceedings for and result of the election, is incontestable other than in a contest filed under section 3515.09 of the Revised Code in which the plaintiff prevails.

(H) If a majority of the electors voting upon the question vote for it, the taxing authority of the subdivision may proceed under sections 133.21 to 133.33 of the Revised Code with the issuance of the securities and with the levy and collection of a property tax outside the tax limitation during the period the securities are outstanding sufficient in amount to pay the debt charges on the securities, including debt charges on any anticipatory securities required to be paid from that tax. If legislation passed under section 133.22 or 133.23 of the Revised Code authorizing those securities is filed with the county auditor on or before the last day of November, the amount of the voted property tax levy required to pay debt charges or estimated debt charges on the securities payable in the following year shall if requested by the taxing authority be included in the taxes levied for collection in the following year under section 319.30 of the Revised Code.

(I)(1) If, before any securities authorized at an election under this section are issued, the net indebtedness of the subdivision exceeds that applicable to that subdivision or those securities, then and so long as that is the case none of the securities may be issued.

(2) No securities authorized at an election under this section may be initially issued after the first day of the sixth January following the election, but this period of limitation shall not run for any time during which any part of the permanent improvement for which the securities have been authorized, or the issuing or validity of any part of the securities issued or to be issued, or the related proceedings, is involved or questioned before a court or a commission or other tribunal, administrative agency, or board.

(3) Securities representing a portion of the amount authorized at an election that are issued within the applicable limitation on net indebtedness are valid and in no manner affected by the fact that the balance of the securities authorized cannot be issued by reason of the net indebtedness limitation or lapse of time.

(4) Nothing in this division (I) shall be interpreted or applied to prevent the issuance of securities in an amount to fund or refund anticipatory securities lawfully issued.



(5) The limitations of divisions (I)(1) and (2) of this section do not apply to any securities authorized at an election under this section if at least ten per cent of the principal amount of the securities, including anticipatory securities, authorized has theretofore been issued, or if the securities are to be issued for the purpose of participating in any federally or state-assisted program.

(6) The certificate of the fiscal officer of the subdivision is conclusive proof of the facts referred to in this division.

(J) As used in this section, "the county auditor's market value" has the same meaning as in section 5705.01 of the Revised Code.