



Ohio Revised Code

Section 5705.261 Election on decrease of an increased rate of levy approved for a continuing period of time.

Effective: January 1, 2026

Legislation: House Bill 96

(A) The question of decrease of an increased rate of levy approved for a continuing period of time by the voters of a subdivision or, in the case of a qualifying library levy, the voters of the library district or association library district, may be initiated by the filing of a petition with the board of elections of the proper county not less than ninety days before the general election in any year requesting that an election be held on such question. Such petition shall state the amount of the proposed decrease in the rate of levy and shall be signed by qualified electors residing in the subdivision, library district, or association library district equal in number to at least ten per cent of the total number of votes cast in the subdivision, library district, or association library district for the office of governor at the most recent general election for that office. Only one such petition may be filed during each five-year period following the election at which the voters approved the increased rate for a continuing period of time.

After determination by it that such petition is valid, the board of elections shall do both of the following:

(1) Request that the county auditor certify to the board, in the same manner as required for a tax levy under section 5705.03 of the Revised Code, an estimate of the levy's annual collections and the levy's effective rate in both the last year before the proposed decrease and the first year that the decrease applies, stated in dollars, rounded to the nearest dollar, for each one hundred thousand dollars of the county auditor's market value. If the subdivision, library district, or association library district is located in more than one county, the county auditor shall obtain from the county auditor of each other county in which the subdivision or district is located the tax valuation applicable to the portion of the subdivision or district in that county.

The county auditor shall certify such information to the board of elections within ten days after receiving the board's request.



(2) Submit the question to the electors of the subdivision, library district, or association library district at the succeeding general election pursuant to division (B) of this section.

(B) The election shall be conducted, canvassed, and certified in the same manner as regular elections in such subdivision, library district, or association library district for county offices. Notice of the election shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the district once a week for two consecutive weeks, or as provided in section 7.16 of the Revised Code, prior to the election. If the board of elections operates and maintains a web site, the board of elections shall post notice of the election on its web site for thirty days prior to the election. The notice shall state the purpose, the levy's estimated annual collections, the amount of the proposed decrease in rate, expressed in mills for each one dollar of taxable value, the effective rate of the levy in the year before the proposed decrease and the first year that the decrease applies, both expressed in dollars for each one hundred thousand dollars of the county auditor's market value, and the time and place of the election. The form of the ballot cast at such election shall be prescribed by the secretary of state but must include all information required to be included in the notice. The question covered by the petition shall be submitted as a separate proposition but it may be printed on the same ballot with any other propositions submitted at the same election other than the election of officers. If a majority of the qualified electors voting on the question of a decrease at such election approve the proposed decrease in rate, the result of the election shall be certified immediately after the canvass by the board of elections to the appropriate taxing authority, which shall thereupon, after the current year, cease to levy such increased rate or levy such tax at such reduced rate upon the tax list of the subdivision, library district, or association library district. If notes have been issued in anticipation of the collection of such levy, the taxing authority shall continue to levy and collect under authority of the election authorizing the original levy such amounts as will be sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on such anticipation notes as the same fall due.

In the case of a levy for the current expenses of a qualifying school district and of partnering community schools imposed under section 5705.192, as it existed before the effective date of this amendment, division (B) of section 5705.21, division (C) of section 5705.212, or division (J) of section 5705.218 of the Revised Code for a continuing period of time, the rate allocated to the school district and to partnering community schools shall each be decreased by a number of mills per dollar that is proportionate to the decrease in the rate of the levy in proportion to the rate at which the levy was imposed before the decrease.