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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE
COMMISSION
DOCUMENT #514820

Ohio Revised Code

Section 5748.03 Ballot form.

Effective: January 01, 2026
Legislation: House Bill 96 - 136th General Assembly

(A) The form of the ballot on a question submitted to the electors under section 5748.02 of the Revised Code shall be as follows:

"Shall an annual income tax of _____ (state the proposed rate of tax) on the school district income of individuals be imposed by _____ (state the name of the school district), for _____ (state the number of years the tax would be levied, or that it would be levied for a continuing period of time), beginning _____ (state the date the tax would first take effect), for the purpose of _____ (state the purpose of the tax)?

	FOR THE TAX	
	AGAINST THE TAX	"

(B)(1) If the question submitted to electors proposes a school district income tax only on taxable income as defined in division (E)(2) of section 5748.01 of the Revised Code, the form of the ballot shall be modified by stating that the tax is to be levied on the "earned income of individuals residing in the school district" in lieu of the "school district income of individuals."

(2) If the question submitted to electors proposes to renew one or more expiring income tax levies, the ballot shall be modified by adding the following language immediately after the name of the school district that would impose the tax: "to renew an income tax (or income taxes) expiring at the end of _____ (state the last year the existing income tax or taxes may be levied)."

(3) If the question includes a proposal under division (B)(2) of section 5748.02 of the Revised Code to reduce the rate of one or more school district property taxes, the ballot shall state that the purpose of the school district income tax is for current expenses, and the form of the ballot shall be modified by adding the following language immediately after the statement of the purpose of the proposed income tax: ", and shall the rate of an existing tax on property, currently levied for the purpose of current expenses at the rate of _____ mills, be REDUCED to _____ mills for each $1 of taxable value, which amounts to a reduction from $_____ (effective rate) to $_____ (effective rate) for each $100,000 of the county auditor's market value, that the county auditor estimates will collect $_____ annually, the reduction continuing until any such time as the income tax is repealed." In lieu of "for the tax" and "against the tax," the phrases "for the issue" and "against the issue," respectively, shall

be used. If a board of education proposes a reduction in the rates of more than one tax, the ballot language shall be modified accordingly to express the rates at which those taxes currently are levied and the rates to which the taxes will be reduced.

(C) The board of elections shall certify the results of the election to the board of education and to the tax commissioner. If a majority of the electors voting on the question vote in favor of it, the income tax, the applicable provisions of Chapter 5747. of the Revised Code, and the reduction in the rate or rates of existing property taxes if the question included such a reduction shall take effect on the date specified in the resolution. If the question approved by the voters includes a reduction in the rate of a school district property tax, the board of education shall not levy the tax at a rate greater than the rate to which the tax is reduced, unless the school district income tax is repealed in an election under section 5748.04 of the Revised Code.

(D) If the rate at which a property tax is levied and collected is reduced pursuant to a question approved under this section, the tax commissioner shall compute the percentage required to be computed for that tax under division (D) of section 319.301 of the Revised Code each year the rate is reduced as if the tax had been levied in the preceding year at the rate at which it has been reduced. If the rate of a property tax increases due to the repeal of the school district income tax pursuant to section 5748.04 of the Revised Code, the tax commissioner, for the first year for which the rate increases, shall compute the percentage as if the tax in the preceding year had been levied at the rate at which the tax was authorized to be levied prior to any rate reduction.