

6.9 Mill Levy

By the Numbers

6.9

A 5.4 mill operating levy and 1.5 mill permanent improvement levy account for the 6.9 mill combination levy, which will maintain current educational programs and allow the district to begin addressing needed capital improvements over time.

\$20

The 6.9 mill levy would cost homeowners \$20.13 per month for a home valued at \$100,000. That amount is \$40.26 per month for a \$200,000 home and \$60.39 per month for a \$300,000 home.

53.6%

Of the total residential tax bill in Anderson Township, 53.6% goes to FHSD to fund public education. In the Village of Newtown, 55.6% of the bill is school taxes. The remainder helps fund other public entities and their programs.

\$750k

FHSD is planning to make approximately \$750,000 in immediate reductions in order to lower the levy's total millage and fulfill its obligation to be responsible stewards of taxpayer dollars.

2023

According to the five-year forecast for FHSD, 2023 is the first year that operational costs have outpaced revenue. That means more money is currently being spent to run the district than the amount coming in from local taxes or other sources.

14th

Out of 22 school districts in Hamilton County, FHSD ranks 14th in school residential tax rate. Despite ranking among the highest in performance, FHSD's tax rate of 38.89 mills is below the Hamilton County school average of 43.66 mills.

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

The Treasurer's Office of Forest Hills School District works diligently to ensure operations are efficient and fiscally responsible. We realize and appreciate the obligation we have to taxpayers to be strong stewards of public funds. Our efforts to honor that responsibility include FHSD's participation in the Ohio Checkbook and our regular recognition with the Auditor of State Award for effective financial practices, which the district received again in February.

Those efforts do not change the reality of school funding in Ohio, which forces districts to turn to voters for additional funding every few years. State law does not allow school funding measures to account for inflation—so as costs increase for things like supplies, gasoline, diesel fuel, maintenance and other yearly expenses, the district's revenue stays at the same level. That is part of the reason the Board of Education approved a 6.9 mill combination levy for the May 2, 2023 ballot.

This includes a 5.4 mill operating levy and a 1.5 mill permanent improvement levy. By law, the operating levy funds can be used for any general purpose related to the operation of the district. The permanent improvement levy funds can be used for any property, asset or improvement with an estimated life or usefulness of five years or more (building updates, roofs, parking lots, heating and cooling systems, or new buses or technology). It's important to note that the levy will only maintain similar levels of staffing and programs at Forest Hills. It does not provide for any additional staff, extracurricular activities or courses, but the permanent improvement levy will allow the district to start chipping away at the most critical facility needs.

For more information about the combination levy, please visit www.foresthills.edu/levy.html.



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Hamilton County School Performance Index

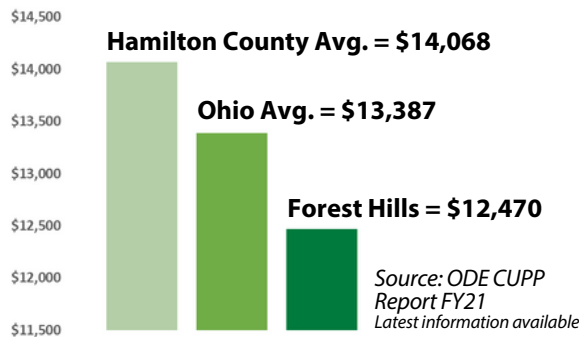
- 1) Mariemont 107.9
- 2) Madeira 105.9
- 3) Indian Hill 104.3
- 4) Sycamore 104.0
- 5) Wyoming 103.3
- 6) Forest Hills 100.0
- 7) Loveland 99.4
- 8) Three Rivers 90.5
- 9) Oak Hills 90.2
- 10) Southwest 86.1
- County Average 81.2
- 11) Deer Park 80.5
- 12) Reading 77.5
- 13) Norwood 76.3
- 14) Princeton 74.5
- 15) St. Bernard 73.3
- 16) Northwest 71.9
- 17) Finneytown 67.2
- 18) Cincinnati 60.2
- 19) Winton Woods 59.0
- 20) N College Hill 53.6
- 21) Mount Healthy 52.6
- 22) Lockland 48.3

Source: ODE Report Cards FY 22

Sincerely,

Alana

FHSD Spends \$1,600 Less Per Pupil Than Hamilton County Avg.



RETURN ON INVESTMENT

- BELOW AVERAGE TAX RATE ✓
- BELOW AVERAGE COST PER PUPIL ✓
- MORE MONEY IN THE CLASSROOM ✓
- ABOVE AVERAGE PERFORMANCE ✓

74 CENTS OF EVERY DOLLAR SPENT IN CLASSROOMS



Forest Hills.....74.0%
Hamilton County Average.....72.36%
Ohio Average.....68.1%

Source: ODE Report Cards FY22

FHSD's BELOW AVERAGE RESIDENTIAL TAX RATE

Hamilton County Average	Forest Hills
43.66	38.89

Source: Hamilton Co. Auditor Tax Year 22/Collection Year 23

What Will the Levy Cost?

Home Value	Cost per Month
\$100,000	\$20.13
\$200,000	\$40.26
\$300,000	\$60.39