

Tiffin City Schools Levy FAQ

What is on the ballot?

Tiffin City Schools is asking voters to approve a **six-year, 0.75% earned income tax levy** on the Nov. 4, 2025 ballot to fund **daily school operations**. This includes teachers, classroom support staff, student programs, and essential services. The funds will not be used for new buildings.

What will it cost?

The levy will cost the **median household** (~\$55,700 annually) about \$34 a month. This means just 75 cents for every \$100 you earn. It applies only to earned income such as wages and self-employment earnings (W-2 or 1099 earnings). It **does not apply** to income from Social Security, pensions, retirement accounts, interest, dividends, rental profits, alimony, Workers' Compensation, or income from trusts and estates.

To calculate what it will cost you annually, take your annual wage and multiply it by .0075.

What will the levy fund?

Every dollar raised stays local and supports:

- Teachers, aides, and support staff
- Academic programs and classroom supplies
- Student wellness, counseling, and special education
- Transportation and daily operations
- Arts, music, electives, and extracurriculars

What happens if the levy fails?

The district faces an estimated **\$3.5 million shortfall**, more than 10% of its annual budget. Without this funding, the district may be forced to:

- Increase class sizes and reduce teaching and staff positions
- Cut electives, student services, and extracurricular opportunities
- Scale back support for students with learning needs

Why now?

- No new operating funds have passed since 2012
- Recently, TCS has been in the lowest 1/3 of the state for per pupil expenditures
- Teacher pay was nearly **\$6,000 below** the state average in 2024
- Costs are rising due to inflation and the Ohio Legislature continues to underfund public schools, shifting the burden to local levies. Due to this year's biennial budget, Tiffin City Schools' state share will be relatively flat for the next two years

Delaying action would lead to more severe cuts later. Without additional revenue, the district would need to reduce spending in areas that currently support the student experience

Is this a construction levy?

No. This is an **operating levy**. It cannot be used for new buildings, renovations, or land. It is dedicated solely to the people, programs, and services already in place.

Does this have anything to do with the 2019 land purchase?

No. The 2019 land purchase is not connected to the current levy. In response to community feedback, the district has initiated a public sale of the property, with an auction scheduled for September 10th, 2025. The monies from the sale of the land will not substantially affect the district's current operating budget or eliminate the need for additional revenue.

How much will this levy raise?

The levy is projected to generate **just under \$3.2 million per year**, all of which remains in the district.