

OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



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April 11, 2025

Bruce Truka, Mayor
Kurt Fankhauser, Council President
Kevin Myers, Council Member
Vicki Dishon, Council Member
Clarissa Scheffler-Slater, Council Member
Christopher Mauritz, Council Member
C. Aaron Sharrock, Council Member
Zyan Hickman, Council Member
James Mee, Council Member
Tommy Starner, Safety Service Director
City of Bucyrus
500 South Sandusky Avenue
Bucyrus, Ohio 44820

VIA Email: mayor@cityofbucyrusoh.us
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kmyers@cityofbucyrusoh.us
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jmee@cityofbucyrusoh.us
ssd@cityofbucyrusoh.us

RE: Use of Public Funds for Street Levy Campaign

Dear Mayor, Councilmembers and Safety Services Director:

The Ohio Auditor of State (“AOS”) has been advised that the City of Bucyrus (“Bucyrus”) may have inappropriately engaged in campaign practices in violation of Ohio law and may be continuing to do so in support of a street levy on the primary election ballot May 6, 2025.

The information we have been provided suggests that among other allegations, the Bucyrus Safety Services Director registered with the Ohio Secretary of State as the treasurer of the Bucyrus Street Renewal Levy 2025 Committee (“Committee”), the purpose of which is to influence the outcome of the upcoming election and promote passage of the street levy. In that report he used the Bucyrus City Hall mailing address as the Committee mailing address and his city email address as the email as treasurer for the Committee.

R.C. 9.03(C)(2) provides in pertinent part that a governing body of a political subdivision must not use public funds to “[c]ompensate any employee of the political subdivision for time spent on *any* activity to influence the outcome of an election” for the purpose of supporting the passage of a levy issue.

R.C.9.03(D) further provides that “no person shall knowingly conduct a direct or indirect transaction of public funds to the benefit of [a] ... campaign committee ... [or] political action committee.”

Accordingly, I am writing to advise you of AOS's knowledge of the alleged campaign practices and to call your attention to the statutory provisions above. We have not confirmed the accuracy of these allegations. Please be aware that if they are true, the activity needs to cease and desist immediately; we request that you take immediate steps to examine these and any other ongoing practices and ensure all activities of the Bucyrus mayor, council members and personnel are in full compliance with Ohio law.

Bucyrus' legal counsel should take this opportunity to provide training on and reinforce the requirements of Ohio law regarding appropriate dissemination of information regarding a levy with the trustees/mayor/council members of the City of Bucyrus. To that end, by clicking [HERE](#) you can access the full Auditor of State's Levy FAQs, which is a helpful tool that provides guidance regarding compliance with Ohio law.

All information relative to this matter is being forwarded to AOS regional staff for review in the city's next regular audit. If you or your legal counsel have any questions, or if you would like to discuss this matter further, please, do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

KEITH FABER
Auditor of State

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert R. Hinkle". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and "H".

Robert R. Hinkle, CPA, CGFM
Chief Deputy Auditor

Cc: Stacie Sholl, Central Region Chief Auditor