



Kurt Fankhauser <kfankhauser@cityofbucyrusoh.us>

Auditor of State Levy FAQ's document

2 messages Tue, Aug 20, 2024 at 2:27 PM

Kurt Fankhauser <kfankhauser@cityofbucyrusoh.us>
To: Vicki Dishon <vdishon@cityofbucyrusoh.us>, Kevin Myers <kmyers@cityofbucyrusoh.us>, "C. Aaron Sharrock" <CASHarrock@cityofbucyrusoh.us>, James Mee <jmee@cityofbucyrusoh.us>, Carolyn J Flynn Shireman <cshireman@cityofbucyrusoh.us>, Zyan Hickman <zchickman@cityofbucyrusoh.us>, Chris Mauritz <cmauritz@cityofbucyrusoh.us>, Bucyrus SSD <ssd@cityofbucyrusoh.us>, Kali Lewis <auditor@cityofbucyrusoh.us>, Bucyrus Mayor <mayor@cityofbucyrusoh.us>, Bucyrus Lawdirector <lawdir@cityofbucyrusoh.us>

Dear Bucyrus City Officials,

I am sharing this document from the Ohio Auditor of State which is a FAQ pertaining to prohibitions of what a municipality can do regarding levy's.

Things to note:

1. Use of municipal facilities for a Levy Campaign to have meetings are mentioned.
2. City employees on the levy committee meeting during work hours while they are on the clock is mentioned.
3. Use of city resources to send out flyers regarding a levy (Utility Bill insertions) is mentioned.

I encourage all to read this document so that you can be mindful of AOS guidance so the city does not get in trouble.

Sincerely,

Kurt Fankhauser
Bucyrus City Council President
500 S. Sandusky Ave.
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office: 419-617-7114



Ohio_Auditor_of_State_Levy_FAQs_Aug_2023.pdf
372K

Kurt Fankhauser <kfankhauser@cityofbucyrusoh.us> Thu, Apr 3, 2025 at 12:13 PM
To: Kali Lewis <auditor@cityofbucyrusoh.us>, Bucyrus SSD <ssd@cityofbucyrusoh.us>, Bucyrus Mayor <mayor@cityofbucyrusoh.us>, Brandon Gobrecht <bgobrechtlaw@cityofbucyrusoh.us>, Lisa Stuckman <admin@cityofbucyrusoh.us>, Bucyrus Utilities <utilities@cityofbucyrusoh.us>
Cc: Greg White <whitegreg263@gmail.com>, Kurt Fankhauser <kurt@wavelinc.com>

Dear Administration,

Regarding the income tax levy on the ballot I think it is prudent to remind the city administration of the following attached Ohio Auditor of State FAQ page regarding "prohibition against using public funds to support the passage of a political subdivision's levy or bond issues."

Please thoroughly read the attached document and I will just point out some significant items:

1. "personnel are NOT allowed to use public funds to influence others to support or oppose a levy or bond issue. In short, tax dollars cannot be used to ask for more tax dollars or influence how taxpayers vote."
In other words, You can not use city email accounts or city computers or run a PRO levy facebook campaign from city computer equipment.
2. "personnel and members of the board who choose to engage in activities that support or oppose a levy accept the responsibility of ensuring it was during time they were NOT BEING COMPENSATED"
In other words, no city employees can work on a levy campaign while they are at work on CITY TIME.
3. a levy committee may pay a fee and use district premises and equipment, such as: telephones, computers and other materials and property of the district when not in actual use for school purposes. All individuals and groups should be treated equally and be given the same access to district premises
In other words, no city computers / phones / resources can be used for any PRO levy campaign unless the same equipment or use of facilities are made available for a campaign against the same LEVY. Use of council chambers for a pro levy campaign would have to be made available for an ANTI levy campaign at the same cost.
4. May a district send levy committee communications home with students? Answer: No. Doing so would be considered an impermissible use of school resources in support of the levy because teachers and/or staff would use time when they are compensated by the district to distribute pro- or anti-levy materials. The district and board should not use public resources or direct district staff to engage in activity during time they are compensated by the district in support of a levy or campaign committee.
This would include sending out material in utility customers' utility bills. Doing so would be prohibited.

Sincerely,

Kurt Fankhauser
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