

CITY OF GROVE CITY, OHIO
COUNCIL MINUTES

April 20, 2026

Special Meeting

The Special meeting of Council was called to order by President Berry at 5:30 p.m. in City Hall, 4035 Broadway.

Roll was called and the following members were present:

Mohamed Omar, Melissa Anderson, George Holinga, Ted Berry, Randy Holt, Alan Sturm, Jodi Burroughs

1. Mr. Berry turned the meeting over to Mr. Sturm, Finance Chair, who explained that this meeting is to discuss the proposed income tax increase. He said the City has a presentation on the overall state of affairs and turned the meeting over to Mr. Turner, Director of Finance.

Mr. Turner shared that this discussion came about because the Community Center Finance Subcommittee suggested a 0.5% income tax increase be considered as a way to help pay for a community center. However, this increase has been considered for many reasons. He explained that our General Revenue funds are flattening and our expenses are continuing to increase. He explained that the City has 37 different funds and all but the General Fund is restricted in what they can be used for. He said the State continues to reduce the funding to municipalities and has eliminated the Estate Tax, as well as others. He said the City's Investment Fund cannot be counted on for a stable amount to be received. He said expenditures are going up, due to the demand for services by the residents. This is hard to control if we want to maintain the safety, service, and technology security of the community. There are also contractual obligations that must be met. He said that monies used for Capital Improvements come from what is left in the General Fund after operating expenses. Eventually, cuts will need to be made to stay within a balanced budget. He then introduced Richard Donnelly, of his office, to explain the Income Tax revenue.

Mr. Donnelly shared a graph that show the income tax growth in the City has been relatively flat in the last three (3) years. He explained that a company's net profit is subject to volatility. This is paid based on what they think will be owed and is subject to refunds from the City if overpaid. It is also subject to Congressional change. He shared what is not taxed (see exemption page attached); a map of Central Ohio with those communities that have 2.5% income tax now. He explained that if someone lives in Grove City and works in Columbus, they will see no change in their paycheck. He shared that 46.2% of those who pay city income tax is already paying 2.5%; 18% of our tax paying residents are exempt; 35.8% of residents would see an increase in what they would pay in income tax. He shared that 556 new jobs paying \$90,000/yr. are needed to raise the withholding collections by \$1 million. It takes 158 new jobs paying \$65,000/yr. to pay for one police officer. He said a tax increase would be needed for operations, capital improvements, and a community center. Finally, he shared the Central Ohio Property Tax Rates showing Grove City as the fourth lowest property tax district. He said an income tax increase would not affect our place on the list.

Mr. Berry asked what the cost of one officer with benefits is. Mr. Turner said \$207,000.00. Mr. Berry asked if we are concerned and looked into what would happen if the State abolishes Property Tax. Mr. Turner said all but \$10 mills has been voted on by the residents, however it is a big concern. Municipalities receive loans based on the promises of those property tax dollars.

Ms. Burroughs commented that this increase may have started because of the desire for a community center, but we are beyond that now. This starts to affect safety and capital improvements for the community. Mr. Turner said regardless of the community center, this increase needs considered.

Mayor Stage stated that the last increase was in 1993 – 1994. We have done very well, but the State continues to take money from municipalities and we are at the mercy of State legislation – for example, the Police Pension Fund Bill may cost Grove City another \$500,000 per year.

Mr. Holt pointed out that the Police Pension Fund has increased dramatically; in the last two (2) years capital improvements have fallen off; and recalled the list of Other Projects that need funding. He said our residents expect the same amenities as Hilliard, Bexley, Dublin, etc. If the income tax is increased, we will still be less expensive than area municipalities.

Ms. Anderson said while there is an appetite to bring in more employers, it takes time to get enough jobs to generate the needed funds. She thanked the Finance Dept. for breaking down who this affects and who is exempt. She said this may have started on the heels of a community center, but this is needed for police, capital improvements, water issues and operations. She asked when the dollars would start coming in. Mr Donnelly said it would depend on the question put to the voters. However, h said it is better to start on January 1. It could start immediately, but it would be more business friendly to start at the start of a quarter.

Mr. Omar asked if asking for this now would overwhelm the voters since there is a Library question and possibly a School questions on the ballot. Council discussed the best time to submit a question to the voters.

5. There being no further questions or comments, a motion to adjourn was approved by unanimous consent.

Adjourned at 6:32 p.m.

Tami K. Kelly, mmc
Clerk of Council

Ted A. Berry
President of Council

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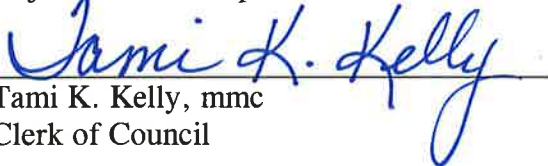
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Clerk of Council


Ted A. Berry
President of Council



GROVE CITY

1852 OHIO

Municipal Income Tax Discussion

04/20/2026

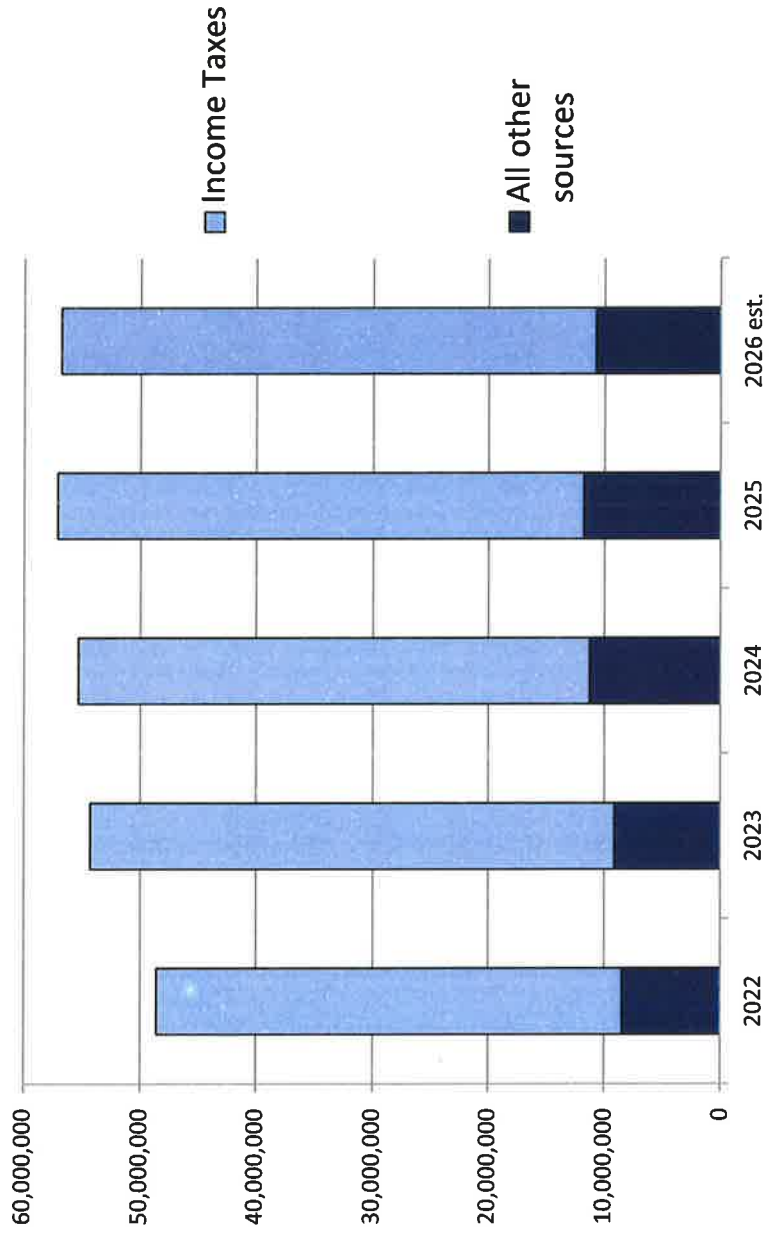
Annual Report



GroveCityOhio.gov

Auditor.state.oh.us

General Fund Revenue

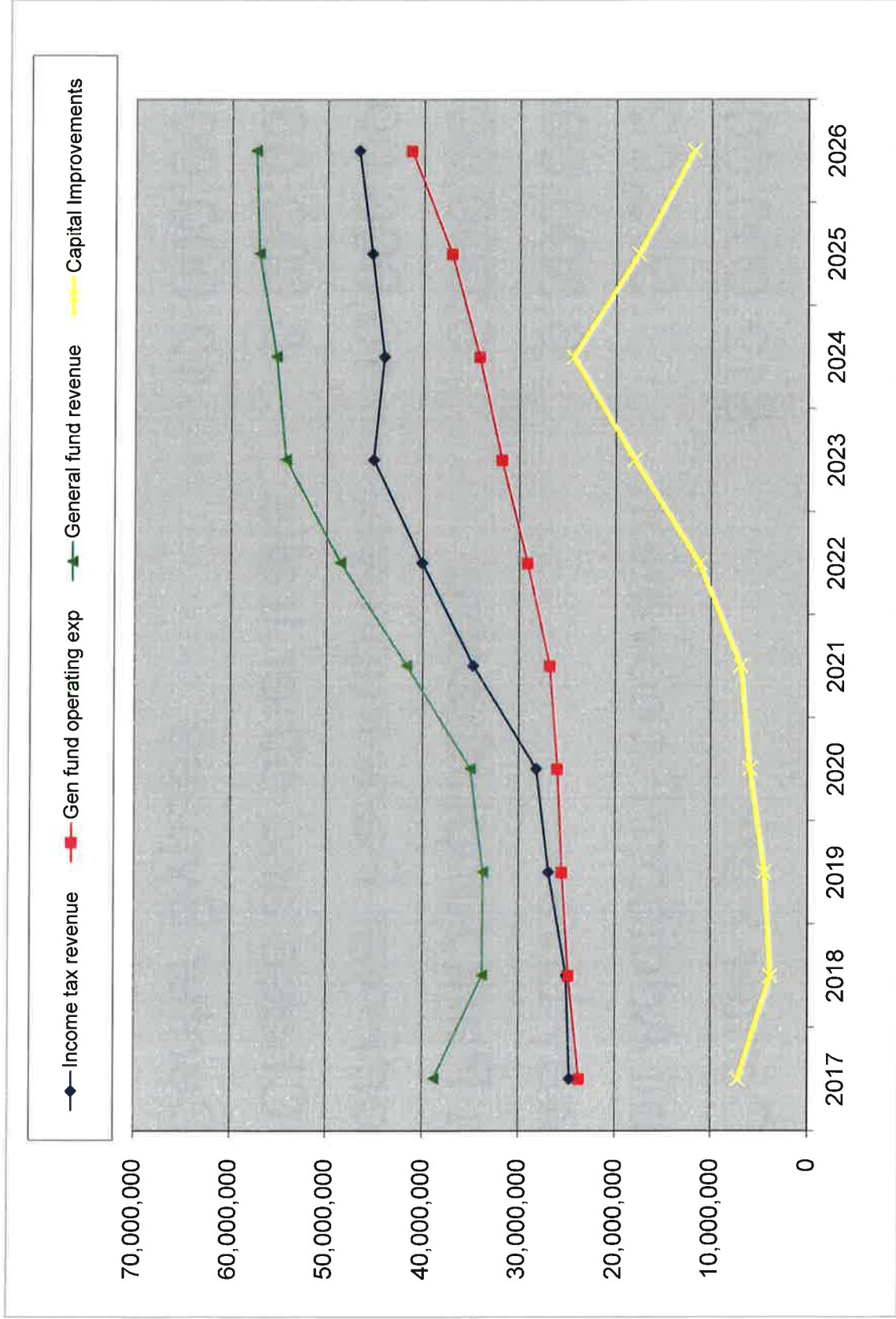


	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026 est.
All other sources	8,473,908	9,104,361	11,230,013	11,767,685	10,744,669
Income Taxes	40,116,231	45,191,486	44,085,178	45,362,366	46,083,774
Total	48,590,139	54,295,847	55,315,191	57,130,051	56,828,443
% Increase		12%	2%	3%	-1%
Income Tax/Total	83%	83%	80%	79%	81%

General Fund Expenses

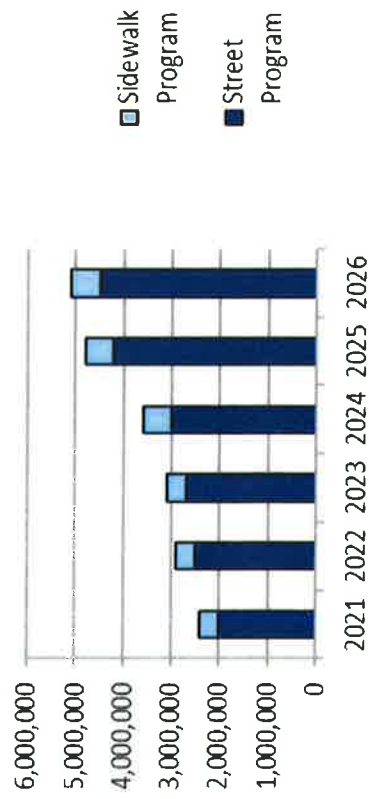
	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026 Budget
Police / Dispatchers / Court	13,039,325	13,925,245	14,542,760	14,893,916	18,044,866
Lands / Parks and Rec	6,766,810	7,250,207	8,366,013	10,513,832	12,692,550
Information Systems	2,595,874	3,189,615	3,704,266	4,019,109	4,921,976
Building / Development	2,424,456	2,685,732	2,780,072	2,697,857	3,555,252
General Miscellaneous	1,924,644	2,897,300	3,040,232	2,824,987	3,433,250
Finance / Admin / Law	2,519,749	2,560,278	2,519,990	2,816,381	3,293,909
Council / HR / others	1,677,361	1,661,324	1,910,369	2,280,670	2,963,593
Operating	30,948,219	34,169,702	36,863,702	40,046,752	48,905,396
Capital Improvement Fund Transfers	11,762,521	18,713,748	25,409,262	17,667,300	11,845,000
Total	\$42,710,740	\$52,883,450	\$62,272,963	\$57,714,052	\$60,750,396

Trends

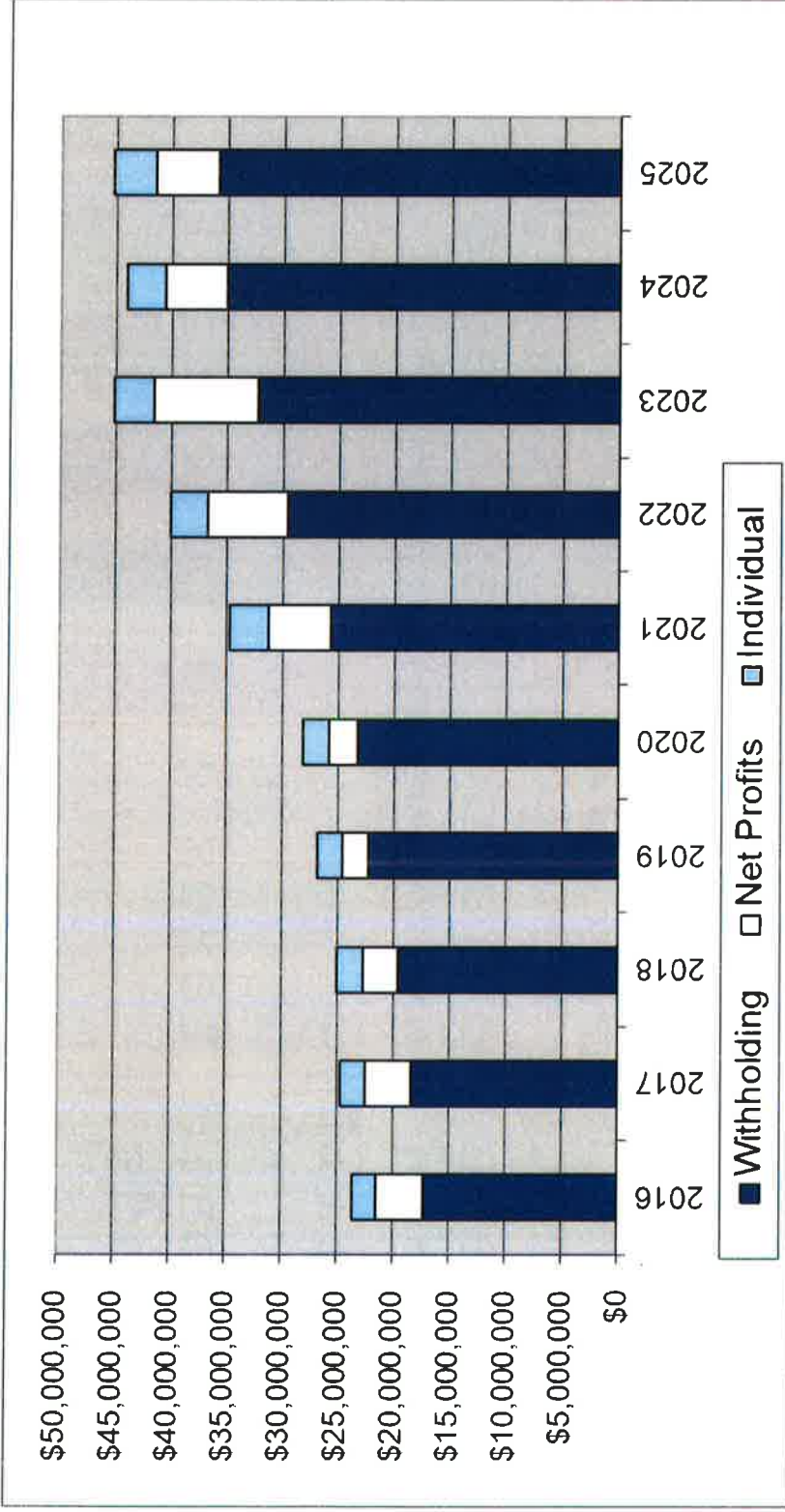


Annual Street/Sidewalk Programs

Annual Street/Sidewalk Programs



Annual Income Tax Collections

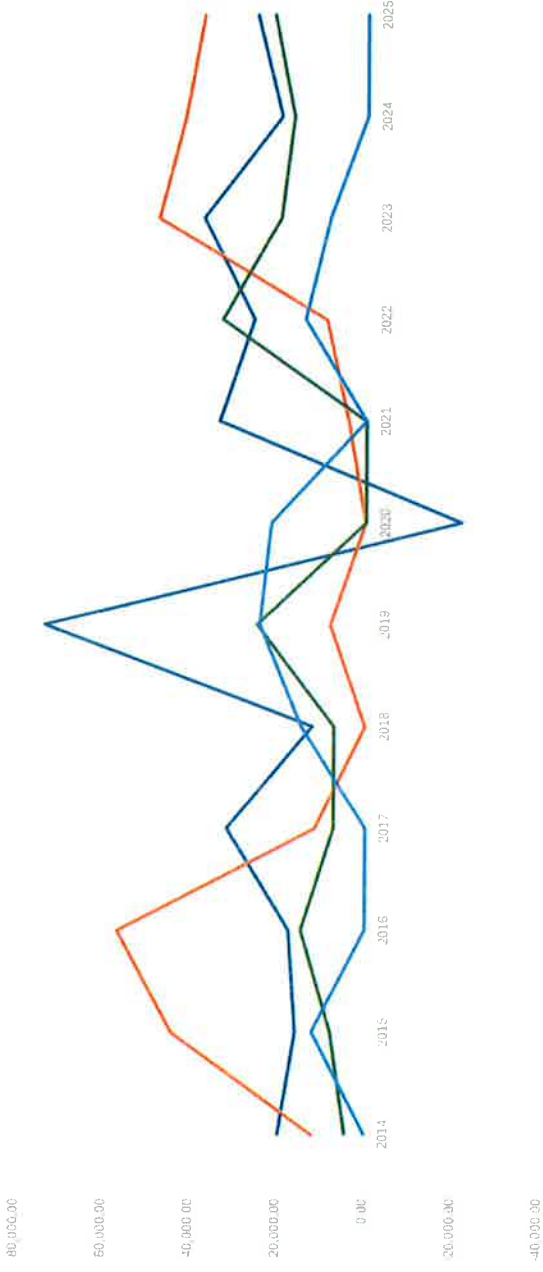


	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Withholding	17,289,654	18,446,253.00	19,631,846.00	22,312,666.00	23,297,217.00	25,783,503.00	29,666,757	32,246,816.00	35,080,143.98	35,817,675
Net Profits	4,240,477	4,074,179.00	3,124,264.00	2,281,046.00	2,592,544.00	5,524,965.00	7,072,830	9,376,694.00	5,560,765.37	5,726,192
Individual	2,101,555	2,171,830.00	2,309,467.00	2,297,260.00	2,301,694.00	3,436,321.00	3,376,644	3,567,976.00	3,444,269.01	3,818,499
Total	23,631,686.91	24,692,262.00	25,065,577.00	26,890,972.00	28,191,455.00	34,744,789.00	40,116,231.00	45,191,486.00	44,085,178.36	45,362,366.00

Income Tax – Net Profits

Net Profit Accounts – Tax Liabilities

Example Accounts from Top 11-50



Income Exempt from City Tax

- **Social Security**
- **401(k) Withdrawals**
- **Pension Withdrawals**
- **Unemployment**
- **Interest**
- **Dividends**
- **Other Intangible Income**

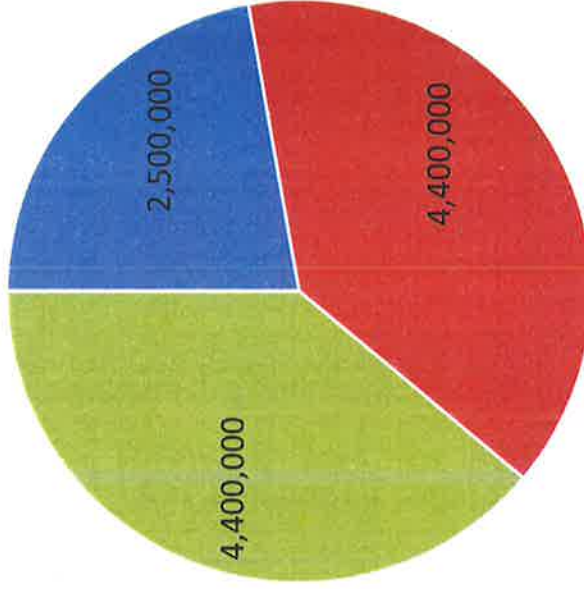
Resident's Overall Tax Liability Unchanged

46.2%
of Residents
are already
paying 2.5% or
more

Working in	2024 Wages	Increase in Our Revenue
Columbus	393,003,055	1,965,015
Hilliard	17,447,291	87,236
Whitehall	14,472,049	72,360
Obetz	8,578,373	42,892
Grandview Heights	7,254,202	36,271
Gahanna	6,857,714	34,289
Upper Arlington	5,971,071	29,855
Worthington	5,943,112	29,716
Reynoldsburg	4,950,339	24,752
Prairie Obetz JEDZ	3,777,562	18,888
Prairie Township JEDD	2,540,753	12,704
		2,353,978

Income Tax Increase Projected Uses

\$11,300,000 increased tax receipts



■ Community Center ■ Operations ■ Capital Projects

THANK YOU!

