



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS HANCOCK COUNTY SENIOR SERVICES LEVY RENEWAL

1. How much will the levy renewal cost the average homeowner?

We seek no new taxes. As a levy renewal, the cost remains the same as in the past. For the owner of a home valued at \$100,000, the levy will cost an estimated \$3.09 a month or a total of \$37.04 a year.

2. What does *renewal* mean?

An individual's property tax stays the same as when the levy was originally approved. The tax amount does not change even if your property value has increased since the levy was originally passed.

3. With property values increasing and more houses being built in Hancock County, won't you receive more money?

No. A levy is estimated to generate an amount by the County Auditor. After values are set in October and a renewal levy passes, the Department of Taxation will set the rate to generate a similar amount to the County Auditor's estimate. With a county wide increase in property values, the rate of taxation is decreased to generate revenue that is similar to the County Auditor's estimate.

4. Who will benefit the most from renewal of the levy?

Senior services provided at 50 North directly benefit senior citizens in Hancock County. 50 North also supports the adult children who assist their senior family members with life's transitions.

50 North assists older adults and their families transition between work and retirement, from full independence to limited support, and between good health and chronic conditions. 50 North helps older adults access the resources and supports they need to remain in their homes independently. Seniors are also afforded opportunities to improve their social, physical, mental, and emotional well-being.

5. What is the length of the levy and when will it take effect?

The levy runs for a period of five (5) years commencing in the 2022 tax year, first due in 2023.

6. What are the Levy dollars used for? Why do you need Levy dollars?

Senior Services Levy dollars are used by 50 North to provide senior services and to maintain the facilities where those services are housed. 50 North's services are:

ACTIVITIES – lifelong learning through classes, socialization opportunities, exciting travel

CHORE – home repair, maintenance, mobility assistance, seasonal activities such as snow removal and yard mowing

NUTRITION – mobile meals, Café with healthy options, grocery delivery

OUTREACH – refer, assist, advocate on behalf of people and their families

WELLNESS – health and fitness classes and programs

The tax enables 50 North to charge for services on a sliding fee scale for those with lower incomes, making 50 North's services and activities affordable for all of our county's older adults.

7. Is there a cost to be a member of 50 North?

There is no charge for a resident of Hancock County to be a member of 50 North. There is a fee for food, some activities, chore, housekeeping, travel and the use of the Wellness Center. Financial assistance is available to those who cannot afford the fees charged for various services and activities. For those who reside outside of Hancock County, there is an annual membership fee per household.

8. What percent of the cost of providing services to seniors is covered by financial assistance?

In 2020, financial assistance paid for by levy dollars covered the following percentage of total cost:

- Mobile Meals – 30%
- Café – 3%
- Chore- 30%
- Outreach – 37%
- Wellness – negligible, as Silver Sneakers and other insurance programs pay for many who might otherwise be eligible for financial assistance

9. Is the building paid off?

Prior to the expansion, the building was fully paid off. 50 North's fundraising efforts that included private donations and grants, resulted in 50 North needing to borrow just 34% of the cost for the expansion. 50 North's Board of Trustees anticipated that a portion of the expansion costs would need to be financed and expect to have the note paid off within 5 years using revenue from fees and fundraising.

10. How will you pay for the cost of staffing and operating a larger building and covering the inflation brought on by the Pandemic?

When planning for the expansion and renovation, the Board of Trustees carefully researched costs and reviewed the operating budget for an expanded and renovated building. We concluded that the tax levy approved in 2016 and service fees would generate sufficient revenue for staffing and operating expenses. At that time, the Board also planned for increased labor, energy and food costs. We are confident the increased costs brought on by the Pandemic can be accommodated within our budget for the foreseeable future.

11. Do you need additional levy dollars because you lowered the age to include 50 year olds among those you serve?

No. Just 3% of 50 North members are 50-54 years of age.

12. Why do you fund raise when you get levy dollars?

50 North's Board of Trustees does not believe taxpayers should shoulder the entire financial obligation for senior services. The Trustees have gone to great lengths to broaden the base of our funding through fees for certain services, grants, individual and corporate giving, and special events to supplement and minimize the burden on taxpayers.

The Hancock County Senior Services Committee

John Haywood and Don Weber, Co-Chairs

Michael Weissling, Treasurer

339 East Melrose Avenue, Findlay, OH 45840

419-423-8496

If you have questions or want more information, email Carolyn Copus, Executive Director at ccopus@50north.org