



CITY OF OBETZ



4175 Alum Creek Dr. Obetz, OH 43207



P: (614) 491-1080



<https://obetz.oh.us>

OBETZ ELECTED OFFICIALS

October 23, 2023

To Our Valued Residents,

As the elected officials of the City of Obetz and Hamilton Township, we write to bring your attention to an important matter that affects the safety and well-being of our community. The Hamilton Township Fire Department has proposed a fire levy that will be up for consideration in the upcoming election, and we believe it is essential for our citizens to be well-informed about this critical issue.

The City of Obetz contracts with Hamilton Township to provide fire and emergency medical services in the City. Obetz does not manage the fire department, nor its resources—those are managed by the Township Trustees. Obetz taxpayers pay property taxes to support the Township and Obetz has three of the Township's seven taxing districts. Obetz taxes account for roughly 43% of the Township's tax collections. (Columbus pays 39%, the Township residents, like Shadeville, Reese, and Hamilton Meadows pay 17%, Lockbourne residents pay 1%, and Groveport residents pay less than 1%). Demonstrating its commitment to the Hamilton Township, Obetz supports the Township with vehicle donations, training opportunities, and is working to finance a new fire truck and a location for a new fire department. Obetz is unsure of efforts Columbus, Shadeville, Reese, Hamilton Meadows, and Lockbourne have made to help beyond paying the same taxes we all pay.

The Hamilton Township Fire Department plays a vital role in ensuring the safety and security of our city. They are the first responders who answer our calls for help during emergencies, fires, accidents, and medical crises. Their dedication and professionalism have been unwavering, and we are immensely grateful for their service.

The proposed fire levy is aimed at providing the Hamilton Township Fire Department with the necessary resources to continue their mission effectively. It is crucial to understand that this levy is not just about funding; it's about ensuring that our firefighters have the tools, training, and equipment required to keep our community safe.

Here are some key points to consider about the fire levy:

1. **Maintaining Service Levels:** The levy will help maintain the current level of service provided by our fire department. It ensures that we can continue to receive prompt and efficient emergency responses when needed.
2. **Investing in Safety:** The funds generated from this levy, among other things, will go towards updating and upgrading equipment, existing facilities, and technology. This investment is crucial for the safety of our residents and firefighters alike.
3. **Community Impact:** The quality of our fire services directly impacts property values and the overall quality of life in Obetz. A well-equipped and well-trained fire department contributes to the safety and prosperity of our community.

We are committed to providing you with the information you need to make an informed decision when you cast your vote. Our city has posted informational literature and resources to help you understand the levy and its implications fully. We encourage you to reach out with any questions you may have.

Your voice matters, and your vote will shape the future of our community. I urge all eligible voters to participate in the upcoming election and to consider the importance of the Hamilton Township Fire Department's fire levy proposal.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I look forward to our community making a well-informed decision on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Angela Kirk
Mayor of Obetz

Mike Kimbler
President Pro-tempore

Mike Flaherty
Council

Todd Gibbs
Council

Chris Hann
Trustee

Todd Blackstone
Trustee

Gary Armstrong
Trustee

Guiles Richardson
Council

Robert Kramer
Council

Lisa Shirkey
Township Fiscal Officer

Derek Varney
Council