

Q: What is on the ballot?

A: The district is seeking a 5.9-mill, five-year operating levy. It would provide additional revenue for the ongoing costs of running the existing school system.

Q: Is this another building levy?

A: No. This issue does not construct or replace a school. A bond issue is restricted to an approved capital project. An operating levy supports recurring expenses such as personnel, employee benefits, transportation, utilities, supplies, academic programming and ongoing maintenance of the district's current facilities.

Q: Why does a high-performing district need more money?

A: High performance does not eliminate financial pressure. District materials show that operating expenses are outpacing available revenue. Inflation, changes in state support and revenue that does not grow at the same rate as operating costs are widening the projected gap.

Q: Why 5.9 mills?

A: The treasurer modeled the revenue needed to protect the Board's policy of maintaining approximately 60 days of cash on hand across the five-year forecast. District materials indicate that lower-millage examples still produced deficit spending and fell below the desired reserve level in the fifth year.

The proposed amount also recognizes substantial maintenance needs across the district's existing facilities while addressing the projected operating deficit.

Q: What would the levy pay for?

A: Operating revenue supports the people and services that make the schools function, including:

- Teachers and other district personnel
- Employee benefits
- Academic courses and electives
- Intervention and student-support services
- Transportation
- Utilities and supplies
- Maintenance of existing school buildings

District materials indicate that approximately 84% of district expenditures are personnel-related.

Q: How much would it cost?

A: The current estimate is approximately \$206.50 annually for each \$100,000 of county-auditor appraised market value.

At a \$328,500 appraised value, the estimated monthly equivalent would be approximately \$56.53.

Q: Does this replace the existing operating-levy renewal?

A: No. The proposed November 2026 levy would provide new operating revenue. The existing operating levy expected to be considered for renewal in November 2027 is a separate issue and represents revenue the district already receives.

Q: What Happens If the Levy Does Not Pass?

A: The November 5.9-mill operating levy is about maintaining the quality of education and opportunities that Canfield students receive today. Without additional operating revenue, the district will be forced to make significant reductions beginning in the 2027-2028 school year. While final decisions would be made by the Board of Education based on the district's financial condition at that time, potential reductions include:

- staff by approximately 40-50 employees, including teachers, aides, and support staff, thereby increasing elementary class sizes.

As a result, the following reductions may follow:

- consolidation of administrative duties
- elementary and middle school STEM programs
- high school elective courses, including programs such as Aviation and Forensics
- advanced academic opportunities, including Honors, AP, and College Credit Plus (CCP) courses at the middle and high school levels
- foreign language programs
- non-core courses such as art, music, and family and consumer sciences (home economics), or requiring families to pay additional participation fees
- school-sponsored field trips

In addition, the Board may decide to review:

- pay-to-participate fees for athletics and extracurricular clubs
- state minimum transportation, including busing for students in grades 9-12 and those living within two miles of their school
- reconfiguration of elementary buildings

Q: What cuts have been made already to alleviate the financial distress?

A: By using attrition from 2020 to 2025, the district eliminated 4 certified and 8 classified staff positions and used retire/rehire with 5 teachers to save approximately \$3,500,000 over that period. This year, we have reduced 2 teaching positions and 1 classified position through

attrition, did not replace a tutor, and brought back 1 teacher through retire/rehire, resulting in projected savings of around \$500,000 for next year alone. Although the district has eliminated several positions due to staffing needs, seniority, and transfers, the goal has been to reduce expenses responsibly while minimizing the impact on students and educational opportunities.