

with Your Xenia Community Schools

Xenia Schools Face Critical Ballot Issue on November 8

Issue 13 will protect the progress of our students and keep our community strong

Dear Xenia Residents:

On November 8, our schools and community face an important ballot issue that will shape the future of our Xenia schools and community. On that day, Xenia Schools are on the ballot with Issue 13, a 4.8 mill five-year emergency operating levy that will maintain current programs and staff and help us avoid devastating cuts that would impact students at all grade levels.

Our Xenia schools have experienced \$3.5 million in cuts from both state and federal resources. In addition, local revenues are declining sharply. There is no doubt this economy has been rough and in order to balance our budget and remain solvent, our schools have cut, trimmed and frozen wherever possible. In fact, we've reduced our budget over 20% to make ends meet – that's almost \$9 million from our operations. Our teachers and administrators have shared in this sacrifice by taking absolute pay freezes and they are paying more for health insurance.

Quick facts on Issue 13 and Xenia Schools:

- Funds from Issue 13 will go directly to the daily operations of our schools.
- Schools have been consolidated resulting in the elimination of 72 staff positions.
- Xenia Schools have not asked for new operating money in more than 7 years.
- Please do not confuse this operating levy with the bond issued passed by voters to build new elementary schools. Those funds cannot be used for day-to-day operating needs like teachers, textbooks, technology or transportation.

Recently we've received many questions about what will happen if Issue 13 fails. The answer is simple: failure of this levy will have a dramatic impact on our students and community. In fact, our board discussed a list of potential cuts should the levy not pass on November 8. These possible reductions include:

- Eliminating high school transportation to both public and non-public students
- Dramatically reducing K-8 busing impacting hundreds of students
- Eliminating or greatly reducing athletics and co-curricular activities
- Reducing reading and library services for all of our students.

The dire financial condition of our schools has also forced District leaders to consider the privatization of services. This would be a very difficult choice the Board of Education may have to address in the near future. Now we find ourselves at crossroads, and as a school district and community, together we must all decide what the future holds for all of us.

We encourage you to ask questions, be informed, and most importantly, make sure that your voice is heard by voting November 8. Thank you for your continued support of our Xenia schools and community.

Sincerely,

Deb Piotrowski
Xenia Community Schools Superintendent



Deborah Piotrowski



**Xenia Community
Schools**

**Central Office
578 E. Market St.
Xenia, OH 45385**

Telephone:
937-376-2961

Website:
www.xenia.k12.oh.us

Facebook:
Xenia Schools

PRST STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Xenia, Ohio
Non-Profit
Permit No. 354

**Postal Patron
Xenia, OH 45385**

Important Information Enclosed on Issue 13 for Xenia Schools

Know the Facts Xenia Schools Issue 13

What: 4.8 mill five-year emergency operating levy that will maintain progress in our schools and help us avoid devastating cuts impacting students and our community.

Why: This levy will protect the great work happening in our classrooms. Without these funds, Xenia schools will need to make millions in cuts in addition to the nearly \$9 million in reductions we've already made. That's 20% of our entire budget.

When: Mark your calendars and vote November 8.

Without Issue 13, potential cuts include:

- Reduction of bus transportation for grades K-8 impacting hundreds of students
- Loss of high school transportation (including private and parochial students)
- Eliminating funding for student extra- and co-curricular activities
- Further reductions in reading/library services for all of our students.