

## **PRESS RELEASE**

Clermont Chamber of Commerce  
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### **Clermont Chamber Endorses Tax Levies**

The Clermont Chamber of Commerce has announced its endorsement on two local issues that will appear on the November 2nd ballot.

It is the purpose of the Clermont Chamber of Commerce to safeguard and strengthen the collective interests of the Clermont County business community, and in that regard, the Chamber Board of Director's endorse and co-sponsor the following levies.

#### **Issue 5 : Clermont County Children's Services Levy**

Clermont County Children's Protective Services is called upon to investigate hundreds of allegations of child abuse or neglect each year. They are dedicated to helping those who cannot help themselves, the abused and neglected children of Clermont County. Efforts are made to preserve families through counseling and support, but many of these cases result in moving the children to foster care homes, for the child's protection.

Clermont County Children's Protective Services is requesting a renewal of the existing .8 mill levy in order to protect the most vulnerable citizens in our community: abused and neglected children.

- This Levy will not raise your taxes.
- All of the money goes directly for the care and treatment of abused/neglected children.
- None of the proceeds pays for staff or any other administrative function.
- The levy provides safe havens for abused and neglected children in Clermont County.
- These dollars enable Children's Protective Services to bring more of federal and state tax dollars back to the children of Clermont County.
- There are currently over 300 children who are removed from abusive and neglectful homes.

#### **Issue 6 : Mental Health Renewal Levy**

State and federal dollars for Mental Health and Drug and Alcohol services continue to decrease, while demand and needs identified from our growing community are increasing. In the past few years, some services have been reduced. Without continued local levy funds, Clermont County residents with mental health, alcohol, or drug problems will have to wait even longer for those services or even be denied access to services, and many prevention programs will have to be terminated. The majority of the Board's revenues fund services at three local agencies: LifePoint Solutions, serving adult mental health needs; Child Focus, serving children, adolescent, and family mental health needs; and Clermont Recovery Center, providing alcohol and drug prevention and treatment services to adults and adolescents. The Board also funds Phoenix Place, a consumer-operated service. All three agencies treat County residents on an ability-to-pay sliding scale basis. In the four years since the last levy passage, over 25,000 individuals have benefited from these prevention and treatment services, funded in part by levy dollars.

The Chamber encourages a vote in favor of these levies and most of all, we strongly encourage that each resident express his or her opinions by voting on Election Day.

*Founded in 1969, the Clermont Chamber of Commerce is an association of approximately 1000 businesses working together to make the Clermont County area the best place to locate, operate and grow your business. The Chamber's key initiatives are advocacy, economic growth and member/investor benefits. Find us at [www.clermontchamber.com](http://www.clermontchamber.com). The President of the Clermont Chamber of Commerce is Matthew D. Van Sant, and the Chairman of the Board is Andrew McCreanor of Executive Service Corps of Cincinnati*