

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Union Township, Clermont County, Ohio- The Clermont Chamber of Commerce today announced its positions on three local and one state and issue that will appear on the November 8 ballot.

The positions were determined after interviewing levy sponsors and through discussion in the Government Affairs Council of all issues, with final action by the Chamber Board of Directors.

“For over forty years the Clermont Chamber has focused on safeguarding and strengthening the collective interests of the Clermont County business community,” said Matt Van Sant, President/CEO of the Clermont Chamber of Commerce. “Business must not be reluctant to speak out when decisions of public policy have a positive or negative impact business success.”

These are the positions:

- Endorse Clermont County Issue 12 - West Clermont Local School District additional tax levy of 7.9 mills for a period of 10 years for emergency; this will cost \$242 over prior year per \$100,000 of home value. The Chamber recommends a “yes” vote because the District has demonstrated fiscal responsibility while maintaining instruction excellence. It is critical that our K-12 schools have the resources to produce a workforce prepared to support the Chamber mission.
- Endorse Clermont County Issue 13 - Clermont County senior services renewal tax levy of 1.3 mills for a Period of 5 Years; this will not increase taxes. The Chamber recommends a “yes” vote because this is not an increase and Clermont Seniors has shown that that caregiver assistance costs companies \$33.6 billion a year and can have a negative impact on the productivity of our workforce.
- Endorse Clermont County Issue 14 - City of Milford fire & EMS additional tax levy of 10.5 mills for a period of 3 years; this levy will replace a 5.2 mill levy expiring in tax year 2010 and 5.3 mill levy expiring in tax year 2012. The Chamber recommends a “yes” vote because the ongoing safety of the people living and working in the Milford area are necessary if we are to attract, retain and grow a strong business community.
- Endorse State Issue 2 – SB5 Referendum. SB5 was signed March 31 with the intent of making long overdue reforms to unfair and costly government employment practices in Ohio, and give units of government the tools needed to get spending under control and make government more accountable to taxpayers. The Chamber recommends a “yes” vote because we must provide schools the tools that need to keep the best teachers in the classroom and reward performance; and governments the tools to ensure fairness in employee contributions to benefit programs and the ability to consider job performance in pay increases. In the end this creates a flexible system able to respond to quickly changing environmental conditions that affect the ability of companies to create jobs and make capital investments.

Founded in 1969, the Clermont Chamber of Commerce is an association of approximately 800 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. The President of the Clermont Chamber of Commerce is Matthew D. Van Sant, and the Chairman of the Board is David McNutt, American Modern Insurance Group.