

# JEROME TOWNSHIP POLICE PROTECTION LEVY Q&A

**The Jerome Township Police Protection Levy provides the Township with tax revenue to contract with the Union County Sheriff to provide for dedicated police protection services from Union County Deputies.**

## **What is the advantage of having additional dedicated police protection in our Township versus a township that does not have such additional protection?**

Through this levy, Jerome Township has contracted with the Union County Sheriff to provide dedicated police protection to the Township. "Dedicated" means these Deputies do not normally take calls outside of their assigned area unless they are providing back-up support to Deputies who need assistance. "Dedicated service" reduces the response time it takes for a Deputy to respond to a call for service in the Township because the Deputy is already in the Township (or in Millcreek Township).

This program provides additional law enforcement personnel in Jerome and Millcreek Townships. The Sheriff's Office is responsible for patrolling 434 square miles in Union County. Without the additional Deputies provided through this levy, one Deputy could be covering as many as four townships at one given time.

Townships that do not have dedicated Deputies assigned to them rely on a Deputy responding from their last location. As such, this Deputy may be coming from the northern end of the County, thus the response time will be longer to respond to a call.

The additional personnel provided through this program allows the Sheriff's Office to provide more services to Township citizens.

Deputies perform the following services:

- Police protection
- More visibility to deter crime in the area
- Devote more time to resident complaints
- Traffic enforcement
- Senior Watch
- Project Life Saver
- School Safety Resource Officer
- Ability to focus on Community Oriented Policing and Problem Solving

## **Jerome Township has had such a program since 1998. Why do I need to pay additional taxes for police protection services and why does the levy need to be renewed and increased?**

The initial program began with a federal grant. Under the program, Jerome Township is responsible for the salary and benefits of the Deputies and the Sheriff's Office, with the County Commissioners' support, provides funding for vehicles, equipment, training, and supplies for the Deputies.

Millcreek Township joined Jerome Township to participate in this program and support additional Deputies. Currently, Jerome Township and Millcreek Township both participate in the program at different levels based on utilization.

The Commissioners continue to provide the funding for vehicles; equipment; training; gasoline and maintenance, and supplies.

Under the program, Jerome Township receives 50% of the traffic fine money from the Courts on traffic citations written in Jerome Township. Although there is revenue returning to the Township it does not offset the cost of the program.

The cost of the program for 2020 and 2021 was \$270,315 and \$299,488, respectively. The cost for 2022 is estimated at \$412,196 (provides \$384,500 support for four Deputies and \$27,500 support for the School Resource Officer).

To keep the dedicated police protection and programs in place and be prepared for future growth, Jerome Township has placed a property tax renewal levy for five years on the May 3, 2022 ballot.

# JEROME TOWNSHIP POLICE PROTECTION LEVY Q&A (cont.)

## Why is dedicated law enforcement and public safety services important?

Calls for service have increased in Jerome Township significantly over the history of this program.

Year	Calls for service*	Jerome	Millcreek
(First five years)			
1998		1,926	418
1999		2,155	385
2000		2,420	384
2001		2,636	480
2002		2,504	538
(Last five years)			
2017		3,209	647
2018		3,861	799
2019		4,499	788
2020		5,046	900
2021		5,195	817

\* Calls for service do not include: traffic stops, subpoena and warrant services, area checks and vacation or house watch checks.

Listed below are the traffic citations and warnings issued in each of the townships.

Year	Citations & Warnings	Jerome	Millcreek
(First five years)			
1997*		401*	161*
1998		1,098	372
1999		1,053	453
2000		741	290
2001		1,059	331
2002		851	373
(Last five years)			
2017		1,112	304
2018		1,505	424
2019		1,361	389
2020		1,129	386
2021		1,208	393

\*Prior to the program

## Provided the police protection levy passes, what will it provide?

The levy will continue to provide the dedicated police protection the Township currently has in place utilizing four Deputies and paying a portion of the cost for a School Resource Officer that is assigned to the two Dublin Schools located within the Township.

## What else can this levy be used for?

This levy can only be used for paying for police protection. Any excess funds must be carried forward for the purpose of paying for police protection.

## How much will I be paying in taxes for this levy?

Jerome Township (unincorporated area) has placed a renewal levy of 1.1 mills (not including rollback) with a 0.1 mill increase, for five years commencing in 2022, first due in calendar year 2023, on the ballot. This levy will cost the owner of a \$100,000 home approximately \$30.38 per year. Under the current levy the same homeowner is paying \$26.88 per year. Thus the additional 0.1 mill represents a \$3.50 increase for \$100,000 of valuation.

## What happens if the levy is not renewed?

Without the levy, the Township will not have the funds to provide for additional dedicated police protection, crime deterrence and traffic enforcement to the Township's residents. Response times will increase due to Deputies covering a larger area and not patrolling in the Township. More than likely, the Sheriff's Office will not be able to offer some of the programs the current Deputies monitor and perform in the Township.