



October 1, 2024

On September 19, 2024, the Union County Chamber of Commerce Board of Trustees unanimously voted to endorse the Marysville Exempted Village School District (MEVSD) 5.5 mill Emergency Operating Levy.

The Union County Chamber of Commerce recognizes that a financially sound school district ensures that we have the resources that guarantee the best educational system for our children. A strong and effective educational system is considered one of the foundational pillars of a successful community where we invest in our children, provide the workforce of tomorrow, and ensure that our children become active and successful citizens in the community and society.

A sound school district also protects property values for residents and businesses. In a study titled "School Spending Raises Property Values," the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) found that home values increased \$20 for every dollar spent on a public school in a community. NBER also found that increased expenditures on students improve test scores, graduation rates, and the number of college bound students. Without question – without a strong school system, we risk a decline in our property values and our local workforce.

MEVSD's 5.5 mill Emergency Operating Levy will allow the school district to cover expenditures due to increases related to inflation, student needs, and operating costs. The levy will also allow MEVSD to continue to be one of the best K-12 school districts in the state of Ohio that boasts a 4-star rating on the state report card, 97.8% graduation rate, and 50+ extracurricular programs. MEVSD has been resourceful with its budgetary needs as it spends \$2,438 below the state average on students and has not passed a new operating levy in the past 16 years.

Over the past year, MEVSD has been working closely with the City of Marysville and business leaders to partner together on various development projects and initiatives that will diversify and grow the tax base for the school district and the community. The Union County Chamber of Commerce will continue to promote the growth of our community and the collaboration between and among MEVSD, City of Marysville, and Union County.

The Union County Chamber of Commerce leadership along with business and community leaders participated in the Partners In Education (PIE) effort that analyzed the current financial state of MEVSD. The PIE report can be viewed here: www.marysvillepartnersineducation.com

The Union County Chamber of Commerce Board of Trustees resoundingly supports the 5.5 mill Emergency Levy and encourages the electorate to support the levy during the November 5, 2024 General Election. If approved, the levy will provide much needed funding to our school district that will maintain the educational opportunities for our students and will improve our quality of life.

Union County Chamber of Commerce Board of Trustees

A blue ink signature of David B. Amerine, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'D' followed by a cursive 'A' and 'M', and a long horizontal line extending to the right.

David B. Amerine, President