

Issue #10: Franklin County Office on Aging Proposed Tax Levy – Renewal

Supports a system of home- and community-based care for seniors and their families.
Renewal of 1.75 mills, \$0.175 per \$100 valuation, for 5 years, commencing January 1, 2023.

League Explanation

The Franklin County Office on Aging is requesting that voters approve a 1.75 mill levy. This levy is a renewal of an existing 1.75 mill levy, originally approved in 2017. If approved, this levy renewal will last for 5 years and cost a homeowner with a home appraisal of \$100,000, \$41.13 per year. There is no tax increase.

Most of the funding supports four main senior services through the Franklin County Senior Options (FCSO) program. These include Home and Community Care, Customer Services Management, Safe Housing, and Community Support, Outreach and Specialized Services. The mission of FCSO is to help older adults maintain their sense of independence, retain a good quality of life and avoid or delay the need for costly institutional care. In addition to being less costly, older adults have a strong preference to remain at home. The majority – 95%— of funding for these services is supported by levy revenues. The other 5% of revenue comes from fees for services and grants.

Enrollment into FCSO has increased 20% from 2016 to 2021, reflecting the increasing demand for services in a growing elderly population. The typical recipient of these services is a female over age 75 who lives alone. Those 60 years and older currently make up 18% of the Franklin County Population. Franklin County's older adult population 60+ is predicted to double from 2010 – 2050.

Arguments Made in Support of Issue 10

- Services help older adults maintain their sense of independence, retain a good quality of life, and avoid or delay the need for institutional care.
- Customer satisfaction surveys show that over 90% of Senior Options participants highly value their services and their case managers.
- Helping seniors remain in their homes is far less expensive than the cost of nursing homes.

Arguments Made in Opposition to Issue 10

- Senior services should rely less on property taxes and instead seek a more diverse base of funding (e.g., user fees).