

From: [BJ Wiberg](#)
To: [CCEO Members](#)
Sent: Monday, October 03, 2005 10:17 AM
Subject: School levies

Here's an urgent request from Amy Elsea at the Pickaway County Chamber of Commerce:

"Our Chamber board met last week and "stepped out of our comfort zone" and endorsed two school levies on the Nov. ballot. These are BIG levies because both school systems will go into emergency status if they fail and the state will come in to manage the districts. Not good for any of us here in Pickaway County."

"My question is **what have other chambers done to get behind their schools and work to get levies passed?** We have a few ideas but would like to hear what others have to say to help us make every attempt to get these passed."

"Thanks so much for your assistance. Greatly appreciated!"

Please respond directly to Amy at amy_elsea@thepickofohio.com, and cc: me at bwiberg.cceo@ohiochamber.com.

Cindy Girdler [exec@mpacc.org]	We always endorse school levies in our communities. We send letters to the editor on the importance of good schools being good for business in our area.	
<i>Debra Lynn-Schmitz, President Medina Area Chamber of Commerce exec@medinaohchamber.com</i>	Regarding school levies. Our Chamber has supported school levies for years. We can, of course, endorse any issue just not candidates. In fact this year, because we had a school district that was in emergency status we stepped up to help them out financially in their campaign. Rather than give them money we donated 10 cases of paper for the campaign. I think it is very important we take action on school issues. We would never oppose a school issue but we might avoid taking any position if we are uncomfortable. I have attached a request for information we use if they would like us to a position. Just make certain this isn't the only time the school asks for you input and support - they should want your help year round - not just at levy time. Hope this helps.	
Janet Davis [jdavis@westervillechamber.com]	Hello Amy, we also research local levies and often times take positions. For school levies we endorsed everyone in the last 12 years. Once the board officially approves the support and action to show the support then we move forward. We send a letter to the editor of our local newspapers. We promote at our membership meetings, Business After Hours and in broadcast emails we will add a tag line reminding members to vote and to support the levy. Some levies we have sent money (\$250., \$500 and one time \$1,000) This year the board will be asked (something new for us) to approve 20 hours of staff time over the last three weeks of the campaign to help the campaign committee make calls, write ads, whatever they need. We do not know if this will be approved yet because the board has not voted on this year's school levy.	