

RESOLUTION NO. R-18-25

A RESOLUTION OPPOSING HOUSE BILL 335 AND URGING THE OHIO GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO REJECT LEGISLATION THAT ELIMINATES INSIDE MILLAGE AND TRANSFERS LOCAL BUDGETARY AUTHORITY TO COUNTY BUDGET COMMISSIONS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, House Bill 335 (HB 335), introduced in the Ohio House of Representatives as the “Property Tax Relief Now Act,” proposes sweeping changes to the property tax system in Ohio, including the elimination of unvoted inside millage for counties, municipalities, and school districts beginning in tax year 2025; and

WHEREAS, inside millage is a long-standing and vital source of revenue that supports the provision of essential local services such as police and fire protection, mandatory contributions to the Ohio Police & Fire Pension Fund, infrastructure maintenance, and parks and recreation without the need for voter approval; and

WHEREAS, HB 335 would centralize fiscal oversight by granting county budget commissions new authority to limit local property tax rates, review and revise municipal budgets, and reduce levies based on their determination of carryover balances—despite these commissions being largely unknown to the public and unelected by the residents they would impact; and

WHEREAS, the provisions of HB 335 would undermine the principle of local control by allowing a county-level body to override the budgetary decisions of locally elected officials and reduce revenues approved by voters or budgeted based on local priorities; and

WHEREAS, this legislation would create fiscal uncertainty for cities and villages across Ohio, many of which have responsibly managed their finances and rely on inside millage to fund operations without asking voters for additional taxes; and

WHEREAS, HB 335 imposes these changes without providing revenue replacement by the state for municipalities, potentially threatening the delivery of basic public services and shifting the burden to income or sales taxes; and

WHEREAS, the City of Avon supports meaningful, collaborative property tax reform, but believes HB 335’s approach is unbalanced and detrimental to the financial health and self-determination of Ohio’s local governments;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
AVON, COUNTY OF LORAIN AND STATE OF OHIO:**

Section 1 – The City Council hereby expresses its strong opposition to House Bill 335 and urges the Ohio General Assembly to reject this legislation in its current form.

Section 2 – The City Council specifically opposes provisions in HB 335 that:

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- (a) Eliminate municipalities' authority to levy inside millage; and
- (b) Transfers budgetary authority from locally elected officials to unelected county budget commissions.

Section 3 – The Clerk of Council is hereby directed to forward a certified copy of this Resolution to members of the Ohio General Assembly representing the City of Avon, Ohio Governor Mike DeWine, and local media outlets.

Section 4 - That it is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the passage of this Resolution were adopted in an open meeting of this Council, and that all deliberations of this Council and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal actions were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Section 5 - That this Resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the City of Avon, the immediate emergency being the necessity to express opposition to and reject legislation that eliminates inside millage and transfers local budgetary authority to county budget commissions; therefore, this Resolution shall be in full force and effect immediately upon its passage and approval by the Mayor.

PASSED: _____

DATE SIGNED: _____

By: _____
Brian Fischer, Council President

DATE APPROVED BY THE MAYOR: _____

Bryan K. Jensen, Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

John A. Gasior, Law Director

ATTEST:

Barbara Brooks, Clerk of Council

Posted: _____
Electronically and at City Hall as
Provided by Council

Prepared By:
John A. Gasior, Esq.
Law Director