



Xenia Township Newsletter

8 Brush Row Road, Xenia Ohio 45385

www.xeniatownship.org Ph 937.372.0859

May 2025

Volume 1 Issue 2

Welcome to the second edition of the Xenia Township newsletter. We will send three (3) newsletters via mail per year, with the others posted on our website. Please visit our website at Xeniatownship.org and sign up to receive e-mails.

What is a Political Subdivision and how are they different?

A political subdivision is a local government entity created by the state to achieve its obligations in a geographic area smaller than that of the state. Examples include cities, counties, villages, townships, libraries, and districts such as water, park, port authority (airport), and school. They are supported by your tax dollars directly or indirectly. Political subdivisions are created and governed by the "Guidelines" in the Ohio Revised Code (ORC). Some subdivisions are creatures of Statute while others are ordained to govern themselves via Home Rule.

Township subdivisions are government by four (4) elected members. Three (3) legislative – Trustee Board, and one (1) Administrative-Fiscal Officer. They are paid based on the size of the budget of the Township. Board members have no singular power but must obtain a simple majority vote to decide an issue or direction. Board members have no oversight of the Fiscal Officer (FO). The FO is administrative and is the gatekeeper of revenue and expenses as well as being the Township Historian for all records. The FO makes sure the revenue is placed and distributed in/from the correct Funds. The FO has no legislative voting privileges.

In the State of Ohio, **Townships** are typically the smallest subdivision with the least amount of power, Villages can be of equal size or larger to Townships, and Cities are typically the largest in population. Of course, Counties are larger than Townships, Villages, or Cities.

By Statute, a **Township** can have a Zoning Resolution, the authority to place a lien on a property holder for nuisance mowing and uncontrolled debris on property, make internal decisions on road maintenance, make internal decisions about Fire/EMS/Rescue, and create JEDs, TIFFs, and CEDAs with a neighboring income-taxing authority.

Xenia Township has assigned to us a Greene County Prosecutor for our legal support, the Greene County Sheriff's Office for our law enforcement, and the Greene County Engineer who provides our engineering support for large culverts and bridges.

Townships by Statute cannot levy an income tax on its residents. Only a home rule (Village/Municipality)

jurisdiction can do that. Townships derive its revenue from property taxes, Levies for both Road and Fire/EMS, as well as a portion of your taxes from gasoline, vehicle license fees, cigarettes, and liquor.

Your Township has a Part-time Fire Chief for two (2) Fire Stations with four (4) FT and 36 PT firefighters. We also have a full time Road Superintendent with three (3) full time road workers to take care of roads, vehicles, and building maintenance. We are also one of three (3) Greene County

In Ohio

Townships	1,308
Villages	673
Cities	253
Counties	88

Townships who have a fulltime administrator.

Home Rule subdivisions. Municipalities with a population of 5,000 or more are typically Cities, while municipalities with a population of less than 5,000 are typically villages. Townships can also be home-ruled if they are large enough to support the financial burden necessary. Home rule entities must have hired their own Law Director (for civil and criminal protection), hired their own Physical Engineer (roads and bridges), hired their own law enforcement (to protect and serve), created their own Charter. They can pass laws to govern

themselves, as long as they follow the state and federal constitutions. Home rule gives local governments the power to define how they want to be governed, and to create local responses to community values and priorities (Ordinances). They can pass road speed limits, fines for unlawful activities, or zoning violations, set income tax rates, etc. Home Rule subdivisions are usually government by a five (5) to seven (7) member board with a designated Mayor. A Strong Mayor has more authority and is the chief executive of the city. A Weak Mayor has limited authority and mainly serves as the council chairperson and has no veto power over council votes. Sometimes they only vote as a tie-breaker. Strong or weak Mayor is determined by the Home Rule Charter.

How do Levies Work?

Trustees and Staff

Steve Combs, Chair
Scott Miller, Vice Chair
Jeremy VanDyne, Trustee
Jacqueline Robinson, Fiscal Officer
Jim Pile, Road Superintendent
Greg Beegle, Fire Chief
Tony Albertini, Deputy Chief
Missy Krause, Administrative Assistant
Alan Stock, Township Administrator

Most levies are fixed rate levies, meaning they are calculated to produce a specific dollar amount of tax revenue each year for each Political Subdivision.

Fixed Rate Levies can only generate additional income if new construction occurs. In the last five (5) years, there have been 28 new homes built in Xenia Township.

If the value within a taxing district increases due to a reappraisal, the tax rate is reduced so that it generates the same amount of money it did in the prior year. This is done by creating an Effective Tax Rate, which is lower than the

voted rate.

If the value increases due to new construction, there will be no adjustment to the Effective Tax Rate.

If the value decreases due to a reappraisal, the Effective Tax Rate is adjusted upward so that it generates the same amount it did in the previous year, so long as the adjustment does not cause the rate to increase above the voted rate.

Road Levy Renewal in May

This month, Xenia Township will have a Road Renewal Levy on the ballot. **A renewal does not increase the taxes you are already paying.** This Levy represents 21% of our real-estate tax income. For the Road Department that amounts to \$127,000 which is 10% of our entire road budget. Of all of the taxes a Xenia Township Resident pays, not including sales tax (County), or State or Federal income taxes, **only 17.8% goes to the Township to run its general business**, and also provide for the Road Department and Fire and EMS services. While the cost of vehicles, repairs, fuel, road maintenance, and building and vehicle maintenance climbs, the revenue from levies do not increase.

Sample Costs of Doing Business for the Xenia Township Road Department

Just a few examples for your consideration. In 2015 salt cost the Township \$67.23 per ton. In 2025 it now costs us \$90.80 per ton which is an increase of \$23.57 per ton. We can use anywhere from 800 to 1,200 tons each snow/ice season. Road center and edge line-striping is an annual event. In 2015 it cost \$12,800. In 2025 it will cost us just under \$30,000, an increase of \$17,200. Pot holes are fixed with "hot mix" asphalt. In 2008 it cost \$53.00 per ton, today it costs \$99.00 per ton. For tree trimming, it cost the Township \$30,000 to trim the trees on Kinsey Road between Whitestone and Woodland, as well as on Brush Row Road between Stevenson and Garcia. Last year we spent \$18,00 on culvert pipes. The Township spent 54% more on maintaining our buildings between 2015 and 2025. Each week, our Road Department members do more work with less available money.

PLEASE VOTE! TUESDAY, MAY 6TH BETWEEN 6:30 AM – 7:30 P.M.