

Versailles Fire Department & Emergency Medical Services Levies – November 4th Election

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On November 4th, 2025 voters in both the Village of Versailles and Wayne Township will see on their voter ballots an additional levy item for both Fire and EMS services that are provided by the Village of Versailles. To help inform and educate voters on what these levies are, how levies work, how they benefit those whom both departments serve, the Village will be providing a multi-week informational series over the next several weeks.

What Are Levies?

A levy is a way for local governments (like municipalities, townships, or counties) to raise money for specific services—such as fire departments or EMS—through property taxes. A levy does not pay for utilities, station maintenance, nor station improvements. These expenses are paid from the Village's General Fund which is primarily funded by income tax.

When voters approve a levy, they're agreeing to pay a little more in property taxes to fund these essential services. Levies can be **New** or Additional (adding a new tax) or a **Renewal** (continuing an existing tax). The levies that Versailles uses for fire and EMS services are continuous, permanent levies. This means that once a levy has been passed by the voters of the corresponding services district, they do not go away after a certain number of years and are not voted on again for a renewal. However, the collections for those levies are set at the time that they are approved and do not increase nor decrease as property valuations change. For example, the current Village of Versailles EMS Levy that was approved in 2015 generates \$223,520 annually. This is the same dollar amount collected now in 2025 as was collected when it was originally approved back in 2015.

What Is Millage?

Millage is the rate at which property taxes are calculated. It's expressed in **mills**, where:

- **1 mill = \$1 of tax per \$1,000 of the total of all assessed property values in Versailles.**
- The Versailles EMS 2025 levy for both the Village of Versailles and Wayne Township is requesting an additional 1.2 mill levy. For a Village of Versailles property owner this levy would result in an additional \$42 annually for every \$100,000 of the county auditor's appraised value. For example:
 - A home appraised by the county auditor at \$200,000 will pay an additional \$84 annually.
 - A home appraised by the county auditor at \$400,000 will pay an additional \$168 annually.

- The Versailles Fire Protection 2025 levy for both for both Village of Versailles and Wayne Township is requesting an additional 0.5 mill levy. For a Village of Versailles property owner this levy would result in \$18 annually for every \$100,000 of the county auditor's appraised value. For example:
 - A home appraised by the county auditor at \$200,000 will pay an additional \$36 annually.
 - A home appraised by the county auditor at \$400,000 will pay an additional \$72 annually.
- Please note that property valuations in the Village of Versailles and Wayne Township are different. Levies within the Village of Versailles typically generate more revenue than those in Wayne Township due to property valuations.

How This Supports EMS and Fire Services

Levies fund things like:

- **Compensation** for paramedics and firefighters. All Versailles EMS personnel are compensated for their services. Volunteer personnel on the Versailles EMS staff roster stopped many years ago.
- **Equipment** (ambulances, fire trucks, radios, fire hose, air packs, cardiac monitors, etc.)
- **Training** – EMS and Fire training is very intense and expensive. As regulations evolve and become ever more stringent, additional and new types of training are required in order to provide EMS and Fire protection services.
- **Emergency response improvements**

Without levies, many local EMS and fire departments wouldn't have enough funding to operate effectively—especially in smaller or rural communities like ours.

Why Do Voters See These on Ballots?

Because levies are funded by taxpayers, they must be approved by voters. Each jurisdiction and/or service territory must approve such levies in order for them to take effect. This is why there is a separate Fire and EMS Levy on the ballot for Wayne Township residents, and separate Fire and EMS Levy on the ballot for the Village of Versailles residents.

Your Vote = Your Impact

When you see a levy on the ballot, such as the ones that you will see for Versailles Fire and EMS Services November 4th, you're deciding how we collectively fund safety within our community and beyond. We ask for your support on November 4th by voting YES on both the Fire and EMS levies.