

YOUR SAFETY FORCES AT WORK

Police Programs Include:

- Citizen Police Academy
- Safety Town for preschoolers
- Neighborhood Crime Watch
- D.A.R.E. program for all fifth and eighth graders
- Diversity Equity & Inclusion Unit
- Self-Defense and Risk Management for Women
- School Resource Officers
- Bicycle Patrol Unit
- Prescription Drug Collection Program
- Active Threat Training
- Financial Institution Robbery Prevention Training
- Citizen Camera Partnership
- Firearms Safety Training
- Home Security Checks
- "I Am Fine" Telephone Check-in Service for Older Adults

Fire Programs Include:

- CARES Paramedicine Program:
 - Blood Pressure Screenings
 - CARES Registry Program - for family members with cognitive, communication or mobility impairments or complex medical needs
 - Car Seat Inspections
 - Coordinated Care - linking vulnerable residents with home care support services
 - CPR & AED Training
 - Home Safety Checks
 - Snow Angels Volunteer Program

Presort Standard
US Postage
PAID
Columbus, OH
Permit #758

If you have questions, or you are part of a group that would be interested in a presentation on Issue 24, we want to hear from you.

p: 614-583-5040
e: city.manager@uaoh.net

**City of Upper
Arlington**
3600 Tremont Road
Upper Arlington, OH 43221
614-583-5040
upperarlingtonoh.gov

PLEASE READ THIS BEFORE VOTING ON ISSUE 24 ON OR BEFORE NOVEMBER 2!



 **City of Upper Arlington**

ISSUE 24

Police and Fire Pension Levy

Your Vote Counts on or Before November 2

Facts About Issue 24 Police and Fire Pension Levy

Community surveys consistently confirm just how important safety is to Upper Arlington residents, highlighting their confidence in the exceptional services provided by the City's Police and Fire divisions.

Maintaining a high standard of safety services is a costly endeavor. Combined, our safety forces represent approximately half the City's workforce and general budget each year. The equipment and training required to make our Police, Fire and EMS response teams the best they can be is extensive. And yet, the City is able to provide an exceptional level of safety services at one of the lowest costs per capita compared with similar Ohio communities.



History of the Police and Fire Pension Levy

By Ohio Statute, the City is required to fund the equivalent of 19.5% (Police) and 24% (Fire) of gross wages to support the Police & Fire Pension Fund. The City has funded its Police and Fire pensions through property tax for the past 45 years, with residents voting to approve nine, five-year ballot issues. All previous levies have been set at or close to 1.0 mills. The Police & Fire Pension Levy issue before voters has been placed on the ballot to renew the existing levy, but at a reduced rate.

Many communities in Ohio have traditionally used a combination of permanent and voted property tax levies to help fund their safety services or their required contribution to the Police & Fire Pension Fund, since it provides a predictable, fixed source of income for safety forces' pensions.

Police & Fire Pension Levy - in Dollars & Cents

The table below compares the existing levy of .97 mills—which expires at the close of 2021—to the proposed annual property tax rate of .89 mills, which represents a reduction of 8.25%. The property tax amount assigned to your home's value when a levy takes effect is fixed over the life of the levy.

Home Value	Existing Rate	Proposed Rate	Annual Decrease
\$100,000	\$33.95	\$31.15	(\$2.80)
\$400,000	\$135.80	\$124.60	(\$11.20)



What the Levy Funds

The proposed levy will fund the state-mandated retirement and disability fund for the City's police and fire personnel for a period of five years. If approved, 100 percent of the proceeds will be dedicated to the Police & Fire Pension Fund.

Approximately 8% of the property taxes paid by Upper Arlington residents is received by the City. The Police & Fire Pension levy is counted as part of this. The majority of your property taxes support the Upper Arlington Schools, Library and various Franklin County levies.

When Would the Levy Take Effect?

If approved by voters, the new Police and Fire Pension Levy would take effect for tax year 2022 and would be payable in 2023.

How the Reduction is Possible

The City is projecting that the police and fire obligation over the life of the proposed five-year levy will total approximately \$16 million, or an average of \$3.2 million per year. This is an increase from the previous levy projection of \$13.4 million (\$2.7 million per year).

Despite this projected increase, Staff believes the reduction can be accomplished due to a growing cash balance in the Police and Fire Pension funds, which has increased from \$928,000 in 2015 to 3.16 million in 2020. The increase is the result of a combination of factors:

- Over time, actual pension expenditures have been less than projections.
- Strong property valuation increases have generated higher revenues on the City's permanent millage.
- In 2020, the City was able to direct a significant portion of CARES Act funds from the pandemic to support police and fire salaries and pensions.

Since these reserves can only be used to support police and fire pensions, it makes sense to lessen the levy renewal amount being asked of voters, while still maintaining a reasonable reserve.

**We encourage you to be informed on Issue 24,
and please vote on or before November 2!**