

More COMMON SENSE;

ADDRESSED TO THE

INHABITANTS

OF

Granville Ohio,

Permanent School Income Tax

Is Shortsighted

*What
about
Intel?*

I support Granville schools. I've voted for every school levy put forward by our tremendous district. However, it's hard to view the prospect of the district's proposed permanent school income tax as anything other than shortsighted. I understand and sympathize with the district's desire to create a permanent source of revenue as it certainly makes budget forecasting easier, but ignoring the elephant in the room won't make it go away.

Intel is going to change the landscape of Licking County in ways we can't even imagine. A \$100,000,000,000 project is being developed just down the road that will impact us long term. More traffic means more money needed for infrastructure. Higher populations in surrounding communities means more runs from our fire department. More people means more crime. We'll need more money for police. In Ohio, there is a reason municipalities rely on income tax and not levies. Revenue from levies can only be used for the stated purpose, leaving no flexibility.

This permanent tax will also prevent our community from offsetting those increased costs through the use of joint economic development districts or JEDDs. (Townships can't collect income tax so they partner with municipalities to do it for them in designated areas and give the city or village collecting a cut of the income.) Granville is a natural partner for multiple nearby townships to partner with to collect income tax as their communities are developed. This permanent school income tax will undoubtedly prevent those townships from choosing us.

This income tax may provide temporary peace of mind to our schools, but it will be a long term burden on our entire community. Let me be clear. I'm not advocating against spending for our schools. I'm simply arguing that there's a better, more strategic way to do it. I pray our community votes no November 8th and goes back to the drawing board to create a sustainable solution to ensure a bright future for our entire community.

Joe Curry, President

Granville
COMMON SENSE
coalition