



ICE insurance would protect local officers

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News Journal

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SPRUCING UP DOWNTOWN



ABOVE: Improvements and obstacles are equaling as the Main Street Corridor Improvement Project in Mansfield progresses Aug. 20.

LEFT: The Main Street Corridor Improvement Project in Mansfield continues to advance Thursday on the square. PHOTOS BY JASON J. MOLYET/NEWS JOURNAL

Lexington schools will need levy votes

Mark Caudill
Mansfield News Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

After hearing about a forthcoming new school and a rallying of the staff for a new school year, people got a dose of reality at the Aug. 19 Lexington Local Schools board of education meeting. Treasurer Jason Whitesel provided a four-year financial forecast for the district. Due to state cuts and the failure of an income tax issue in May, Lexington is hurting financially.



Officials are hoping voters will pass two ballot issues in November. One is 4.8-mill renewal levy that was set to expire this year. It would go for five years and would not be a new tax. The other issue is a 0.75% earned income tax that would not touch retirement savings. The issue would be for 10 years. Voters resoundingly defeated a 1.5% continuing traditional income tax in May. “We heard you loud and clear. We totally understand,” Whitesel said. Using slides, the treasurer showed the crowd what would happen to the district by the end of fiscal year 2030, depending on three scenarios. If both ballot issues fail, the district would have an unreserved cash balance of negative \$9 million.

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What’s changed in the student attendance law for Ohio schools

Grace Tucker
Cincinnati Enquirer
USA TODAY NETWORK

Ohio parents might get more calls about their student’s missed school days this year. That’s because of changes in state law that activate the “chronically absent” label – or missing 10% of instructional

time for any purpose, including excused and unexcused absences, like doctors appointments and staying home due to weather, respectively. So, more absences will be monitored by schools, and parents can expect to be contacted more frequently about those absences. The idea is to inform parents

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Students at Hays-Porter School in the West End walk to class on the first day of school for Cincinnati Public Schools on Aug. 19. FRANK BOWEN IV/THE ENQUIRER

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