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Veto override could shift authority

County panel may get the power to lower property taxes

Cole Behrens

Columbus Dispatch
USA TODAY NETWORK

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A county government panel could get greater authority to lower your property taxes by reducing the amount collected by schools, libraries and other entities if state lawmakers proceed with a plan to override Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine's veto. On July 1, DeWine line-item vetoed state budget provisions that would give authority to a county's three-member budget commission to reduce millage collected by taxing authorities like schools and libraries. The Ohio House plans to return July 21 to vote on an override of DeWine's veto on that change and others, and the Ohio Senate could be close behind.

In his veto message, DeWine said the budget commission provision "breaches the approval of such millage by the voters," and also would pose challenges for the Ohio Department of Taxation calculations. If enacted, the change would em-

power commissions in Ohio's 88 counties.

The provision was among a group of budget proposals meant to address rising property taxes. DeWine also vetoed a plan to force school districts with large cash balances to return money to property owners, though lawmakers haven't said they plan to override that decision.

Opponents say the change, especially for school districts, could cause confusion and a lack of representation on tax changes. Others, like Ohio Library Council Executive Director Michelle Francis, say "communities deserve local control and respect for the votes they've cast."

"Allowing a three-member county commission to override the will of local voters not only undermines democratic decision-making, but also puts critical library services at risk," Francis said.

But Rep. David Thomas, R-Jefferson, said something needs to be done to address rising property taxes.

"No local government is going to voluntarily reduce their taxes unless there's some pressure to do so," Thomas said. "And the taxpayers really have nowhere to turn. Giving (the budget commissions) more authority will be the check

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ACES OF TRADES



Abby Cole is a co-owner of Hey Babes at the Second Street Market in downtown Newark. KURT SNYDER/THE ADVOCATE

Abby Cole brings do-it-all spirit as Hey Babes co-owner

Drew Bracken

Special to Newark Advocate

Abby Cole is working — with a cherry on top.

"As a child I was always a part of a team and very competitive," recalled Cole. "I always enjoyed the arts, whether that be drawing, painting or ceramics. I enjoyed cooking growing up but never thought about it as a profession."

Today, Cole is co-owner of Hey Babes, formerly Hey Babes Bakery, at the Second Street Market in downtown Newark with Casey Stoughton and Liz Siemer.

"We do it all!" Cole explained. "Everything from cooking to cleaning, to help-

ing customers, to taking out the trash."

Cole grew up in Newark, graduated from Newark High School in 2010, then Hocking College in Nelsonville in 2014 with a major in culinary arts.

"I attended a community college right of high school and from there decided I wanted to go to culinary school," she said. "While in school I started my first job in the industry and never looked back."

"I never had an interest specifically in baked goods," she added. "I always loved cooking, but baking was never my love. Growing up my mom was an amazing baker, and I always loved having fresh sweets at home. After high school I lived with my dad who was a chemistry professor and is the best cook I know. That's when I truly fell in love with cooking and the science of it all, which in turn gave me a greater appreciation for baking and the science behind it

Hey Babes started Nov. 21, 2022.

"Liz, Casey, and I met at culinary school and fell in love," Cole said. "We knew from then we wanted to start our own restaurant together. We wanted to flip the industry and do it our way. Make equality, work life balance and scratch food a priority."

Robin Felts is a customer and "Abby Cole fan"

Cole fan."

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Granville council tables dog-leash ordinance

Maddie Luebkert
TheReportingProject.org

Granville Village Council is considering options for a local ordinance that would extend the current dog leash law to more or all of the village.

At its last meeting, after considering the legislation and hearing public comments, the council tabled a proposed ordinance for a second time.

The council will now consider two separate ordinances, each offering options to expand the existing requirement and describing where dogs must be leashed. The original proposal to expand the leash requirement now includes an amendment to add the T.J. Evans Trail bike path and the walking path along Newark-Granville Road.

The second ordinance, which will be introduced at the next meeting on July 16, would apply the current leash laws to the entire village. If passed, dog owners would be required to keep their pets on a leash at all times in all public spaces in the village.

The council is expected to amend both ordinances to include exceptions for service animals. Leashes will not be required for service animals if the leash interferes with the service dog's ability to perform its job.

"Essentially, it would be any service animal, which is any dog individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability," said Village Manager Herb Koehler, reading from the Ohio Revised Code.

The existing leash law applies mainly to streets in the business district and the core of the historic village: East Broadway from Main Street to Granger Street, North Prospect Street from Broadway to College Street, South Prospect Street from Broadway to Elm Street, and Main Street from College Street to the T.J. Evans Trail.

During the meeting on June 18, residents commented both for and against

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