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Ballot includes three levies

Shawn Dignity
Zanesville Times Recorder
USA TODAY NETWORK

ZANESVILLE – Let’s talk about three of Muskingum County’s biggest levies in the 2025 election and how they’ll impact residents.

Two are county-wide renewals on the ballot Nov. 4, and one is for a new fire district that affects Muskingum and Coshocton county residents.

Muskingum County Children Services

The first county-wide levy is for Muskingum County Children Services and the Avondale Youth Center. It’s a property tax renewal for 2 mills and 10 years for the care, support, protection and placement of physically abused, sexually abused, neglected and abandoned children.

Residents would pay \$36 per every

\$100,000 in property value.

“It is not a new tax, but a renewal of the existing levy set to expire in 2026,” explained Candy Emmert, executive director of Muskingum County Adult and Child Protective Services said in an announcement.

It’s a single levy that would pay for Muskingum County’s contributions to the Children Services and Avondale budget, or 40% of its total budget, noted a fact sheet from Emmert. The remain-

ing budget is covered by state and federal funding.

The levy was previously passed in 1985, 1995, 2006, and 2016.

Muskingum Valley Park District

The second is for the Muskingum Valley Park District. It’s a property tax renewal for 0.2 mills and five years for

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California Democrats are urging voters to back the Proposition 50 redistricting ballot measure in response to the president’s demands that Republicans redraw their own House maps in favor of the GOP.

LAURE ANDRILLON/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

Trump a big factor in off-year vote

Democrats focus on president in election pitches

Zac Anderson
USA TODAY

The Democratic candidates for governor in New Jersey and Virginia are making opposition to Donald Trump central to their pitches.

In California, an ad urges voters to “stick it to Trump,” while New York City’s front-runner for mayor says he’ll “stand up” to the president if he wins.

Trump’s name is not on the ballot in 2025. He’s a lame duck whose political retirement looms in three years. But the off-year races culminating on Nov. 4 have nonetheless put a spotlight onto the 79-year-old Republican – his likeness is featured in ads and debates, and he’s on the minds of voters as America braces for its first general election since Trump won his second term nearly a year ago.

Democrats have reasons for optimism. The major 2025 races in New Jersey, Virginia and California are largely being fought on turf where Trump is unpopular and has never won his own statewide campaigns.

The president’s opponents are hop-

ing they can tap into the angst felt by voters, such as Mary Ruehl, a 71-year-old Virginia resident who said she’d been thinking of the current White House occupant as she recently cast a ballot at an early polling location.

“I want to try to get Trump out,” said Ruehl, a retired Air Force officer and lifelong Democrat. “He’s the worst president we’ve ever had.”

Republicans see things much differently. Trump is the party leader, and they’re leaning into the president as much as possible with an eye on igniting the same forces that helped the GOP capture the White House and take

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ZANESVILLE

‘He did not know the children were in the car’

Man sentenced after stealing vehicle with kids inside

Shawn Dignity
Zanesville Times Recorder
USA TODAY NETWORK

ZANESVILLE – In March 2023, a Zanesville man stole a Chevy Suburban and took off with it and two children in the back seat. He’ll send the next two decades behind bars for his actions.

On Oct. 27, Thomas Edward Pritchard Jr., 48, was handed 22 years in prison across two cases after previously pleading guilty Sept. 22 to three felonies: two counts of kidnapping, both first degree, and one grand theft of a motor vehicle, fourth degree.

A mother left the two children in the vehicle while dropping off another at dance class, explained the Muskingum County Prosecutor’s Office in an announcement.

She left the car running because of colder temperature, and when she returned, the car was gone.

Authorities issued an AMBER Alert and the Washington Police Department in Pennsylvania received a tip around four hours later. Washington police stopped the vehicle and found the two children unharmed in the back seat, the prosecutor’s office stated.

“During sentencing, Pritchard told the court he did not know the children were in the car. Pritchard claimed he planned on returning the children once he realized they were in the car but needed time to decide how he was going to do it,” the prosecutor’s office explained.

Pritchard had also pleaded guilty to two other counts in the second case: receiving stolen property, a fourth-degree felony, and OVI, a first-degree misdemeanor. This case, too, involved

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