

# WE CAN'T AFFORD HIGHER TAXES FOR 28 YEARS NO NEW TAXES!

## The Trustees' new fire station plan is excessive and fiscally irresponsible

- The proposed bond levy will be \$10 million – **which we will pay for over 28 years!** Plus up to **\$7 million** in wasted interest.
- Building this single, 24,000-sq.-ft. fire station – **four times bigger** than Station No. 1 – will cost \$372/sq. ft. **The national average is \$193/sq. ft.**<sup>1</sup>
- Consolidating facilities for the new station by bringing several vehicles, and desks and file cabinets from other buildings, **doesn't warrant** a 24,000 sq. ft., \$17 million fire station.
- Plus the plan is to spend **\$5 million** more on a new station on Prouty Rd. So the total, with construction, interest, architect fees and other costs, could be **more than \$25 million.**

## There's a better and more reasonable way forward

**Defeat Issue 1.** Have our Trustees present more reasonable and affordable plans to meet Concord's future safety needs without adding taxes. *Our emergency-response pros and Concord's taxpayers deserve this.*

Use existing taxes, including the continuous Safety Levy<sup>2</sup> passed in 2015 and more than \$1 million of special business and employee taxes<sup>3</sup> collected each year, to build more realistic facilities.

<sup>1</sup> RSMears Construction Cost Data. <sup>2</sup> Revenue of \$2,362,676 in 2018. <sup>3</sup> JEDD \$750,000, TIF \$250,000, and Capital Projects \$85,000 approximations per Concord Strategic Meeting Presentation 1-25-19.

## CONCORD'S PLAN IS EXCESSIVE COMPARED TO OTHER COMMUNITIES

	Madison Township	Lyndhurst	Painesville Township	Concord Township
<b>Total Square Feet of Stations (Number of stations)</b>	26,500 (2)	16,200 <sup>1</sup> (1)	29,886 (3)	<b>36,500</b> (2)
<b>Square Feet Per Resident<sup>2</sup></b>	1.1	1.2	1.5	<b>2.0</b>
<b>Emergency Calls Per Year</b>	3,200 <sup>3</sup>	2,600 <sup>3</sup>	2,977	2,624
<b>Construction Cost for Newest Station(s) (in millions)</b>	\$4.5 <sup>4</sup>	\$4.7 <sup>5</sup>	\$4.0 <sup>6</sup>	<b>\$15.0<sup>7</sup></b>

<sup>1</sup> 12,500 sq. ft. new construction and 3,700 sq. ft. renovation.

<sup>2</sup> Publicly available population data.

<sup>3</sup> Approximate number.

<sup>4</sup> 21,000 sq. ft. station, built in 2013.

<sup>5</sup> 12,500 sq. ft. station, new construction in 2019, excluding renovation.

<sup>6</sup> 18,000 sq. ft. station built in 2008.

<sup>7</sup> Proposed 24,000 sq. ft. Station No. 1 and 12,500 sq. ft. Station No. 2.



# We fully support our firefighters and EMS professionals Build reasonably sized and priced fire stations!



**The News-Herald**  
News-Herald.com

August 24, 2019 Updated Sept 24, 2019

## A Tale of Two Cities: To tax or not to tax?...that is the question. We need affordable fire stations

The recent News-Herald article regarding Lyndhurst's approach to improving their fire station clearly showed a responsible cost-effective approach without adding the burden of debt to the community. Lyndhurst can service their 14,000 citizens with a 16,200-square-foot facility, while Concord with 20,000 citizens requires two stations totaling 36,500 square feet ... Lyndhurst will spend under \$5 million for their station, but Concord will spend in excess of \$20 million ...

In 2015, Concord passed a continuous (forever) safety levy collected in 2016 to "maintain fire apparatus, appliances, and buildings." It was a 4-mill levy and brought in \$2,325,587, in 2016, \$2,375,994 in 2017 and \$2,386,665 in 2018.

Concord residents were told that the creation of the Joint Economic Development District (JEDD) provided taxes across the district.

The Tax Commission's report stated: "This will cost \$7 million over the next five years, expected to be a good step. Although the levy's impact on seniors living on fixed incomes or other residents who cannot afford the onslaught of tax increases in recent years. We are asking all Concord residents to Vote NO on Concord's proposed bond levy on Nov. 5. We need affordable fire stations."

Brian Massie, Concord Township

**For more information visit  
www.AffordableConcordTaxes.com**

*"I'm not at all clear how Lyndhurst can be building a fire station for around \$4.5 million and Concord wants to spend \$10 million plus.*

*"I look at annual emergency calls – both fire and EMS – and the two cities have very comparable numbers. I understand Concord is larger, but that's why we have two stations.*

*"You have to ask yourself— why does just one of these proposed facilities cost double ... and our total cost is more than three times as much as Lyndhurst?"*

**Jeff D'Abate**  
Retired Concord firefighter, serving 13 years in both volunteer and part-time roles

**YOU can stop Concord's out-of-control spending**

**Vote NO on November 5**

**PRO FIREFIGHTERS • PRO CONCORD  
PRO TAXPAYERS**

Paid for by ACT -  
Affordable Concord Taxes  
7796 Rockdove Lane  
Concord, OH 44077