

STATE OF INDIANA
DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE
Room 1058, IGCN – 100 North Senate
Indianapolis, IN 46204

IN THE MATTER OF THE REQUEST)
OF WAYNE TOWNSHIP, MARION) A23-086
COUNTY, FOR AN EXCESS LEVY)
DUE TO THREE-YEAR GROWTH)

The Department of Local Government Finance (“Department”) has reviewed an appeal by Wayne Township, Marion County (“Township”) for an excess levy in the amount of \$200,000 to its civil maximum levy due to three-year growth. Ind. Code § 6-1.1-18.5-13 allows the Department to grant permission to a civil taxing unit to increase its maximum levy if the Department finds that the quotient determined under Step Six of the following formula is equal to or greater than one and two-hundredths (1.02):

Step 1: Determine the three calendar years that most immediately precede the ensuing calendar year:

2023, 2022, and 2021

Step 2: Compute separately, for each of the calendar years determined in Step 1, the quotient (rounded to the nearest ten-thousandth (0.0001)) of the sum of the civil taxing unit's total assessed value of all taxable property divided by the sum determined under this Step for the calendar year immediately preceding the particular calendar year.:

Township assessed values for 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023, respectively:

<i>2020:</i>	<i>4,457,993,084</i>
<i>2021:</i>	<i>4,609,940,195</i>
<i>2022:</i>	<i>4,941,643,283</i>
<i>2023:</i>	<i>6,101,336,810</i>

Step 2 quotients:

<i>2021/2020:</i>	<i>1.0341</i>
<i>2022/2021:</i>	<i>1.0720</i>
<i>2023/2022:</i>	<i>1.2347</i>

Step 3: Sum the results of Step 2 and divide by three:

1.1136 ([1.0341+1.0720+1.2347]/3)

Step 4: Compute separately, for each of the calendar years determined in Step 1, the quotient (rounded to the nearest ten-thousandth (0.0001)) of the sum of the total assessed value of all taxable property in all counties divided by the sum determined under this Step for the calendar year immediately preceding the particular calendar year.

Statewide average quotients for 2021, 2022, and 2023, respectively:

1.0392; 1.0541; 1.1481

Step 5: Add the Step 4 results and divide by three:
1.0804 ([1.0392; 1.0541; 1.1481]/3)

Step 6: Divide the Step 3 results by the Step 5 results:
1.0307 (1.1136/1.0804)

The maximum amount that the Department may award is the amount by which Step 3 exceeds the maximum levy growth quotient (“MLGQ”) as calculated according to Ind. Code § 6-1.1-18.5-2 (this amount is 1.04 or 4% for 2024; since 1.0307 is greater than 1.020, the Township is eligible for a three-year growth appeal):
0.0736 (7.36%) (1.1136-1.0400)

The Township’s 2023 maximum civil levy is \$1,628,906. This is the most recent fire maximum levy that the Department can use as the basis for an adjustment. Multiplying this figure by the 7.36% growth factor calculated above results in a figure of \$119,842, which is the maximum for which the Township could qualify under the statutory formula. Under Ind. Code § 6-1.1-18.5-12(a), the Township must also show that it is unable to perform its government functions without this increase.

The Township states in its appeal that the excess levy is needed because the Township “has experienced an unfortunate trend of increasing expenditures and decreasing revenues, resulting in continued year-end deficits,” which “has led to a significant decrease in the General Fund balance.” The Township adds that its Rainy Day Fund balance, 6% of the Township’s total 2023 budgeted expenses, is not sufficient to cover the cost of operations. The Township then states that its assistance programs include burial assistance, disaster relief, utility assistance, rental assistance, school clothing assistance, and what it described as a “social security representative payment program”.

The Township then states that its civilian employees, excluding the small claims court and boardmembers, are “the lowest paid Township employees within Marion County in 2021” on average, and in 2022 “were still paid below the average salary of Township employees in the County” despite receiving a salary increase. The Township adds that the salary paid to employees “contradicts the volume of Township assistance claims filed with the Township during the year.” The Township provides a document entitled “Average Salary Comparison of Townships within Marion County,” which claims to list the average salary of employees by township in Marion County, abstracted from 2021 and 2022 Employee Compensation Reports (100R). This document also includes the 2020 Census Population and 2023 General Fund Per Capita Budget (abstracted from the Form 1 Report) for each township. The data provided is as follows (the Township’s data in bold):

Township	2021 Average Salary (in \$)	2022 Average Salary (in \$)	2020 Census Population	2023 General Fund Per Capita Budget
Decatur	43,415.50	53,845.77	36,951	78.38
Franklin	46,621.97	38,967.83	65,815	20.47
Pike	45,992.63	51,549.67	82,472	18.73

Warren	41,147.86	48,607.49	105,351	14.18
Perry	41,828.75	42,765.75	120,744	14.19
Lawrence	44,523.80	43,531.64	121,676	10.54
Washington	44,339.38	49,635.46	137,537	12.14
Wayne	39,775.54	45,616.58	147,106	10.67
Center	47,797.25	48,202.38	152,058	37.26

The Township states the excess levy is needed to fund the salaries and wages of the 24 Township employees and provide adequate compensation for these employees, adding that the employees “have received minimal salary increases in recent years; the increases have not been consistent with the rising cost of living.”

The Township’s Form 3 states an excess levy amount of \$200,000 in the General Fund.

After a review of the petition, the Department, following Ind. Code § 6-1.1-18.5-12 and 13, and in consideration of all evidence provided, finds as follows:

APPROVED WITH MODIFICATION:

The Township’s excess levy appeal is approved in the amount of **\$119,842**. This figure reflects the amount for which the Township qualifies under the statutory three-year growth formula and does not exceed the amount for which the Township advertised and petitioned the Department. This is a one-time, permanent increase.

STATE OF INDIANA
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WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL of this Department on this 8 day of
December _____, 2023.



Daniel Shackle, Commissioner