

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

**IN THE MATTER OF THE REQUEST)
OF TOWN OF NORTH LIBERTY,)
ST. JOSEPH COUNTY, FOR AN EXCESS)
LEVY DUE TO THREE-YEAR GROWTH)** **A23-065**

The Department of Local Government Finance (“Department”) has reviewed an appeal by the Town of North Liberty (“Town”) for an excess levy in the amount of \$74,526 to its civil maximum levy due to three-year growth. Indiana 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.:

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

<i>2020:</i>	<i>42,412,418</i>
<i>2021:</i>	<i>49,357,456</i>
<i>2022:</i>	<i>50,979,149</i>
<i>2023:</i>	<i>64,151,064</i>

Step 2 quotients:

<i>2021/2020:</i>	<i>1.1638</i>
<i>2022/2021:</i>	<i>1.0329</i>
<i>2023/2022:</i>	<i>1.2584</i>

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

1.1517 ([1.1638+1.0329+1.2584]/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:

1.0660 (1.1517/1.0804)

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 1.0660 is greater than 1.020, the Town is eligible for a three-year growth appeal):

0.1117 (11.17%) (1.1517-1.0400)

The Town’s 2023 maximum civil levy is \$667,200. This is the most recent civil maximum levy that the Department can use as the basis for an adjustment. Multiplying this figure by the 11.17% growth factor calculated above results in a figure of \$74,526, which is the maximum for which the Town could qualify under the statutory formula. Under Ind. Code § 6-1.1-18.5-12(a), the Town must also show that it is unable to perform its government functions without this increase.

The Town states in its appeal that the excess levy is necessary to pay and retain police officers. No additional information was provided.

The Department made a follow-up inquiry with the Town regarding the referenced need for increased staffing within the North Liberty Police Department. In its response the Town specified that it needs to hire four (4) additional part-time officers, which will cost \$39,408 per part-time officer.

The Town stated on its Budget Form 3 that it seeks an excess levy appeal of \$74,526 for its General Fund. Finally, the Town received a permanent excess levy in the amount of \$13,571 for Pay-2023.

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:

The Town’s excess levy appeal is approved in the amount of **\$74,526**. This figure reflects the amount for which the Town qualifies under the statutory three-year growth formula and does not exceed the amount for which the Town advertised and petitioned the Department. This is a one-time, permanent increase.

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WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL of this Department on this 28 day of December, 2023.



Daniel Shackle, Commissioner