

RESOLUTION 071203

Board of County Commissioners opposes the repeal of the Ohio Estate Tax and supports the ongoing services provided with said tax revenues.

WHEREAS, cities use estate tax revenues for core needs such as fire stations, sewer and water improvements, police and EMS vehicles, snowplows and crucial daily services. For most cities, 70-80% of the total budget is dedicated to Police, Fire and the Service Department.

WHEREAS, the elimination of the estate tax would have a devastating impact statewide. Losses are projected to be \$200 MILLION annually, which is equivalent to 3,262 Ohio police officers. Locally, in Northeast Ohio, local governments in the 7 counties of Northeast Ohio (with 24% of Ohio's population as of the year 2000) would lose approximately \$50 million annually, or the equivalent to 667 police officers.

WHEREAS, the elimination of the Ohio Estate Tax would only benefit 14,000 residents statewide per year (or 1 in 1,000 people), and likely increase taxes on many more to address the shortfall in funding for services.

WHEREAS, the estate tax largely taxes appreciated securities, such that most of the value of the property has never been taxed, and said measure could well jeopardize bond ratings for the state and local governments, making it harder to borrow funds for urgent capital needs.

AND WHEREAS, the Mayors and Managers Association of Northeast Ohio opposes any changes to Ohio's Estate Tax without permanent, reliable replacement revenues.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Cuyahoga County, Ohio that we, together with the Mayors and Managers Association of Northeast Ohio oppose the repeal of the Ohio Estate Tax and support the ongoing revenue and the services those tax revenues provide.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the Board be, and she is, hereby instructed to transmit a copy of this resolution to Governor Ted Strickland; Ohio General Assembly and the Mayors and Managers Association of Northeast Ohio.

On Motion of Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Dimora, the foregoing resolution was duly adopted.

Ayes: Jones, Dimora, Hagan.

Nays: None.

Resolution Adopted.

Jeanne M. Schmotzer,
Clerk of the Board

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