



B.S.T.&G. FIRE DISTRICT

Berkshire Twp. • City of Sunbury • Trenton Twp. • Village of Galena
Delaware County, Ohio • Est. 1953

VOTER FACT SHEET

1 OF 4 • THE ASK

WHAT IS ACTUALLY ON YOUR BALLOT

A renewal, plus an increase.

The Fire Board placed a 5-year operating levy on the November 3 ballot. It has two parts, and only one of them is new money.

4.85

MILLS • RENEWAL

Continues the levy you already pay. Not new money.

2.50

MILLS • INCREASE

New funding to continue current operations and secure staffing Station 352.

7.35

MILLS • TOTAL VOTED RATE

5 years. Estimated \$6,071,628 per year.

WHAT IT COSTS, BY HOME VALUE

COUNTY AUDITOR MARKET VALUE	YOU PAY NOW	PROPOSED	PER MONTH	THE INCREASE
\$150,000	\$122	\$264	\$22.00	+\$142
\$250,000	\$204	\$440	\$36.67	+\$236
\$350,000	\$285	\$616	\$51.33	+\$331
\$450,000	\$367	\$792	\$66.00	+\$425
\$550,000	\$448	\$968	\$80.67	+\$520

Based on \$176 per year per \$100,000 of market value. **You already pay \$81 of that; the actual increase is \$94.53 per \$100,000.**

WHY WE CHOSE A RENEWAL INSTEAD OF A REPLACEMENT

A renewal preserves the state rollback credits attached to the existing 4.85 mills; the State of Ohio keeps paying a share of your bill on that portion. **A replacement levy would have erased those credits**, shifting the full amount onto local taxpayers at today's higher valuations. As Ohio's property tax relief programs expand, that rollback benefit is expected to grow and this structure keeps district taxpayers eligible for it.

BALLOT LANGUAGE

"A renewal of 4.85 mills and an increase of 2.50 mills for each \$1 of taxable value... for the benefit of Berkshire, Sunbury, Trenton and Galena Joint Fire District... that the county auditor estimates will collect \$6,071,628 annually, at a rate not exceeding 7.35 mills for each \$1 of taxable value, which amounts to \$176 for each \$100,000 of the county auditor's market value, for 5 years, commencing in 2026, first due in calendar year 2027."

ELECTION DAY: TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2026

Polls open 6:30 a.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Questions? info@bstgfire.org • 740-965-3841



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2 OF 4 • THE NEED

WHY THE DISTRICT IS ASKING NOW

The calls went up. The money didn't.

Ohio law caps what a voted levy collects. Over nine years, growth added workload without adding revenue.

1,716

EMERGENCY CALLS IN
2025

75%

CALL GROWTH SINCE 2015

84%

POPULATION GROWTH, 10
YRS

162%

RISE IN OVERLAPPING
CALLS

THE HB920 PROBLEM: FROZEN REVENUE, RISING COSTS

Ohio's HB920 “reduction factor” freezes a levy at the dollar amount voters originally approved. When property values rise (through reassessment or new construction) the effective rate is cut proportionally. The district collects the same dollars regardless of how much the community grows.

YOUR COST PER \$100,000

\$124

2017

→

\$81

TODAY

Voted rate 4.85 mills; effective rate now 2.52.

WHAT THE SAME EQUIPMENT COSTS NOW

COST CATEGORY	2018–2020	2025–2026	CHANGE
Fire engine	\$617,000	\$1,200,000	+94%
Health insurance (total)*	\$110,124	\$594,157	+232%
Turnout gear (per set)	\$1,950	\$3,750	+92%
Breathing apparatus (SCBA)	\$5,500	\$7,500	+36%
Hydraulic rescue tools	\$45,000	\$75,000	+67%

* Health insurance figure reflects a larger full-time roster as well as premium growth.

THE TIF PROBLEM

Tax Increment Financing agreements redirect much of the new value from new construction into infrastructure funds rather than to the taxing districts. BST&G responds to every call and inspects every building in those developments while receiving little or none of their new property tax value.

ONE LEVY. NO BACKSTOP.

BST&G operates on a single operating levy and receives no general fund money from Berkshire Township, Sunbury, Trenton Township, or Galena. Most comparable departments carry two or more levies. There is no other revenue source to absorb rising costs.

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VOTER FACT SHEET

3 OF 4 • THE RETURN

WHAT THE MONEY BUYS

Staffing the station you already built.

The 2024 bond paid for Station 352's construction. Bond dollars cannot legally pay a salary. This levy is what keeps crews inside it.

2024 BOND • 0.78 MILLS

Built it.

Approved March 2024 • Broke ground March 2025
• Opened May 19, 2026.

2026 LEVY • 2.50 MILL INCREASE

Staffs it.

Firefighter/EMTs on shift 24 hours a day,
365 days a year.

WHAT THE NEW REVENUE FUNDS

- 1 Round-the-clock staffing at Station 352**
Reduces reliance on mutual aid when two calls come in at once: up 162% since 2017.
- 2 Sustaining the six SAFER-grant firefighters**
The federal share shrinks each year and ends after three. The levy carries those positions when it does.
- 3 NFPA-compliant staffing on all three shifts**
Meets the national standard for how many firefighters arrive on a working fire.
- 4 Apparatus replacement at current prices**
An engine that cost \$617,000 in 2018 now runs \$1.2 million.
- 5 Expanded inspections and fire prevention**
Inspection demand is up 180% since 2018 across a fast-growing commercial, multi-family, and residential base.
- 6 A possible ISO rating improvement**
A better rating can reduce homeowner insurance premiums district-wide.

BEFORE ASKING: \$2.5 MILLION IN COMPETITIVE GRANTS SINCE 2019

GRANT	YEAR	PURPOSE	AMOUNT
SAFER	2024	Six additional full-time firefighters for Station 352	\$2,042,478
AFG	2019	Full SCBA replacement, cylinders, cascade/fill system	\$255,063
AFG	2021	Technical rescue equipment and training	\$152,850
BWC Exposure	2019	Diesel exhaust extraction system	\$38,930
BWC Safety	2023	Turnout gear extractor and drying cabinet	\$26,902
TOTAL		Secured without local tax dollars	\$2,516,223

DELIVERED IN 2025

1,716

Calls

5,000+

Training Hrs.

861

Inspections

93.25%

NFPA turnout time

91

PR Events

30

Car Seats Installed

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4 OF 4 • COMPARISON

COST, STRUCTURE, AND COMMON QUESTIONS

Where this puts us among our neighbors.

Fifteen fire departments serve Delaware County. Here is where BST&G sits today, and where this levy would put it.

#	DEPARTMENT	FULL RATE	COST PER \$100K	STATIONS
1	Westerville Fire*	19.65	\$222	3
2	Washington Township Fire*	14.95	\$176	5
3	Concord Township Fire	14.62	\$192	1
4	Porter Kingston Fire District	10.00	\$199	1
5	Orange Township	9.00	\$172	2
6	Liberty Township	8.00	\$186	2
7	Genoa Township	7.70	\$185	1
8	Fort Morrow Fire District	7.50	\$189	1
9	Harlem Township	7.50	\$219	1
10	Tri Township	6.40	\$204	2
11	BST&G: PROPOSED	7.35	\$176	2
11/12	Radnor Township Fire	6.32	\$153	1
12/13	Berlin Township Fire	5.93	\$101	1
13	BST&G: TODAY	4.85	\$81	2
14	Elm Valley Joint Fire District	3.87	\$118	1
15	Scioto Township Fire	3.25	\$80	1

Delaware County Auditor effective rates, tax year 2025 (collection year 2026). BST&G ranks 13th of 15 today; the proposed rate would place it 11th.

* Westerville and Washington are for their Delaware County population only.

WHY A JOINT FIRE DISTRICT COSTS LESS THAN FOUR DEPARTMENTS

One overhead, not four

A single command structure, training program, and administration serves all four communities.

Dedicated funding

A fire district levy can only fund Fire and Rescue. It cannot be moved to roads, parks, or other spending.

Shared capital

Stations, engines, and equipment are bought once and serve everyone.

A shared station

Station 352 houses Delaware County EMS (Medic 11) alongside BST&G; one hub instead of two buildings.

QUESTIONS WE ARE HEARING

Didn't we just vote on a fire levy?

2024 was a 0.78-mill construction bond for Station 352. This is the operating levy. The last operating increase was approved in 2017.

Home values rose, aren't you collecting more?

No. HB920 holds a levy to its original dollar amount and reduces the effective rate as values rise.

What happens if it fails?

The district would face real constraints on staffing Station 352, meeting NFPA standards, and replacing apparatus as costs continue to rise against flat revenue.

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