



Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging  
*Advocacy. Action. Answers on Aging.*

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **SENIOR SERVICES LEVIES RECEIVE OVERWHELMING COMMUNITY SUPPORT AMID GROWING NEED**

COLUMBUS, OH (November 8, 2017)—Twenty three levies that support older Ohioans were on the ballot yesterday for renewals or increases. A consistent theme among the levy campaigns was the increasing number of seniors needing services in the community and the willingness of local communities to help.

Seventeen of the 18 countywide senior services levies passed. All four of the municipal levies passed, as did the Montgomery County Human Services Levy, which supports senior services. Almost all won by overwhelming majorities.

“Current state and federal funding has not kept up with need,” said Larke Recchie, CEO of the Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging.

“Between 2015 and 2030, the number of people age 65 and older in Ohio will increase by 40% and the population 80 and older will increase by 46%,” she said.

Ohio’s strong local support for senior services is unique. No other state has as many local tax levies to support senior services as Ohio. Levy programs vary, with many funding home-delivered and congregate meals, home repair and modification, transportation services, health and wellness activities, and personal care services.

“Ohio’s senior levy programs save the state money in terms of Medicaid,” Recchie said. “All it may take are home-delivered meals or minor home modifications to keep someone from having to move into costly nursing home care, and many cannot afford to pay for a nursing home stay for long before they need support from Medicaid.”

(more)

According to the Ohio Department of Aging, currently older citizens in 75 counties benefit from levies, including 74 that are countywide and 16 that are municipal (cities, townships, villages). Seniors in Cuyahoga and Montgomery counties benefit from four human service levies. Levy passages have increased significantly during the past decade. According to Scripps Gerontology Center, Ohio's senior levies generated about \$165 million statewide last year.

**About the Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging:** The Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging (o4a), a nonprofit organization, is a statewide network of agencies that provide services for the elderly, as well as advocate on behalf of older Ohioans. The Association addresses issues which have an impact on the aging network, provides services to members, and serves as a collective voice for Ohio's Area Agencies on Aging. For more, visit [www.ohioaging.org](http://www.ohioaging.org).

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