

# Health district levy to fund nursing programs, environmental division

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The Logan County Health District will place before voters on the Nov. 6 ballot a 10-year, 1.25-mill operating levy that will help to fund nearly 30 programs. Health Commissioner Dr. Boyd Hoddinott said the replacement levy would cost residents with a \$100,000 property approximately \$39 per year. The levy would generate \$780,000 per year — 34 percent of the health district's budget of approximately \$2.5 million. The funds will be collected starting April 2009. Dr. Hoddinott said the LCHD's budget depends less on local taxes than the average health district in the U.S. "The national average among local health districts is 44 percent of the budget (funded by local taxes)." The health district's nursing division would be most directly affected by the operating levy, Dr. Hoddinott said. Some of the programs conducted by this division include school health nursing, the investigation and control of communicable/infectious diseases, newborn baby visits and childhood immunization clinics. "Most of the (nursing) programs support seniors and

children," Dr. Hoddinott said. "For example, we administer more than 5,000 shots per year, most to individuals in these two groups." The nursing division also administers services for the Ohio Bureau of Children with Medical Handicaps and the federally-funded Women Infants and Children nutritional program. Dr. Hoddinott said some programs in the environmental division, such as environmental nuisances inspections and public water supply testing, are also supported by local taxes. If the levy does not pass, Dr. Hoddinott said the health district will have to cut some of its programs and staff. "We also may decide not to do some of our licensing programs," he said. "People would have to go to state inspectors for food safety inspections, mobile park inspections etc." For a complete list of tax-supported services affected by the operating levy, contact the health district, 592-9040.