

**The Board of Education of the school district in which I live is considering a levy to deal with inflation and the lack of adequate state funding due to the state shifting funds to vouchers.**

A portion of the real estate tax money my neighbors and I pay to support our school district must be used by the district to compensate for the state's priority on funding vouchers, instead of adequately funding school districts as the constitution requires.

The state's universal voucher scheme during this two-year budget cycle requires about \$2 billion in state funds. These dollars, if directed to public school districts for which the General Assembly is responsible, would advance the public school system toward constitutional status.

If my Board of Education determines a levy is needed, I will vote for it and work to help pass it; however, I resent the fact that the General Assembly is diverting state tax funds that should flow to public school districts to private voucher schools. The property tax problem in Ohio could be greatly alleviated if the General Assembly would assume its constitutional responsibility to secure a thorough and efficient system of common schools.

The Ohio Supreme Court, in the 1997 DeRolph school funding decision, cited the operation of the state's school foundation formula and the over-emphasis of property tax in the school funding formula as primary flaws in the system. Due to egregious neglect by the General Assembly in the past few years, the dependence on property tax in the school district funding formula is greater now than when the DeRolph school funding case was filed in 1991.