

RESOLUTION NO.: 91-2025

INTRODUCED BY: Mayor Thomas and All of Council

A RESOLUTION OPPOSING HOUSE BILL 335 AND URGING THE OHIO GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO REJECT LEGISLATION THAT ELIMINATES INSIDE MILLAGE AND TRANSFERS LOCAL BUDGETARY AUTHORITY TO COUNTY BUDGET COMMISSIONS.

WHEREAS, Ohio House Bill 335 (HB 335), introduced in the Ohio House of Representatives as the “Property Tax Relief Now Act,” proposes sweeping changes to the property tax system in Ohio, including the elimination of unvoted inside millage for counties, municipalities, and school districts beginning in tax year 2025;

WHEREAS, inside millage is a long-standing and vital source of revenue that supports the provision of essential local services such as police and fire protection, mandatory contributions to the Ohio Police & Fire Pension Fund, infrastructure maintenance, and parks and recreation without the need for voter approval;

WHEREAS, HB 335 would centralize fiscal oversight by granting county budget commissions new authority to limit local property tax rates, review and revise municipal budgets, and reduce levies based on their determination of carryover balances—despite these commissions being largely unknown to the public and unelected by the residents they would impact;

WHEREAS, the provisions of HB 335 would undermine the principle of local control by allowing a county-level body to override the budgetary decisions of locally elected officials and reduce revenues approved by voters or budgeted based on local priorities;

WHEREAS, this legislation would create fiscal uncertainty for cities and villages across Ohio, many of which have responsibly managed their finances and rely on inside millage to fund operations without asking voters for additional taxes;

WHEREAS, HB 335 imposes these changes without providing revenue replaced by the State for municipalities, potentially threatening the delivery of basic public services and shifting the burden to income or sales taxes; and

WHEREAS, the City of Richmond Heights supports meaningful, collaborative property tax reform, but believes HB 335’s approach is unbalanced and detrimental to the financial health and self-determination of Ohio’s local governments.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND HEIGHTS, OHIO, THAT:

Section 1. The Mayor and City Council hereby express their strong opposition to House Bill 335 and urges the Ohio General Assembly to reject this legislation in its current form.

Section 2. The Mayor and City Council specifically oppose provisions in HB 335 that:

- (a) Eliminate municipalities' authority to levy inside millage; and
- (b) Transfer budgetary authority from locally elected officials to unelected county budget commissions.

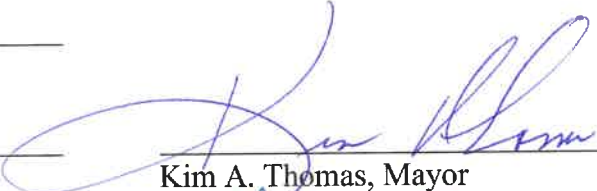
Section 3. The Clerk of Council is hereby directed to forward a copy of this Resolution to members of the Ohio General Assembly representing the City or Richmond Heights, Ohio Governor Mike DeWine, and local media outlets.

Section 4: It is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the adoption of this Resolution were adopted in an open meeting of this Council, and that all deliberations of this Council and any of its committees that resulted in such formal action, were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

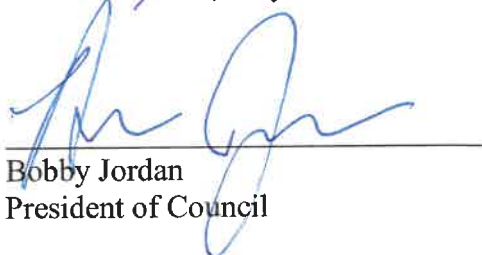
Section 5: This Resolution shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its passage and approval by the Mayor.

PASSED: June 24, 2025

APPROVED: June 24, 2025

  
Kim A. Thomas, Mayor

ATTEST: Tracey Blair  
Tracey Blair  
Clerk of Council

  
Bobby Jordan  
President of Council