

RESOLUTION NO. 45-2021 (CRR)

By Council Member Russell

A Resolution in support of the passage of laws and implementation of policy measures aimed at advancing tax fairness and improving public services; and declaring an emergency.

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has exposed the consequences of the historical failure to adequately fund public services through reductions in the local government fund and decreased investment in public health, transportation, infrastructure, and social services; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has further exposed the inequities in current tax policies by revealing the effects of ongoing failures to prioritize support for our public services and workforce; and

WHEREAS, corporations have seen a steady reduction in state taxes since 2005 yet they rely on the same roads and bridges, broadband infrastructure, water and sewer facilities, safety services, and public transportation as the American workers who have seen their wages stagnate and their share of the tax burden increase; and

WHEREAS, policies must reflect the importance of a well-educated, happy, and healthy workforce to the growth, prosperity, and profitability of business; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that the State of Ohio invests in providing access to high quality, affordable childcare and early education opportunities, expanding access to high-speed broadband to all corners of the state, and making sure public infrastructure is safe for our communities and environment; and

WHEREAS, Ohio has witnessed that at-risk communities suffer most in times of crisis from underfunded public services; and

WHEREAS, with the recent passage of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, the State of Ohio stands to receive billions of dollars; and

WHEREAS, after a decade of decreased funding for local governments, the monies received through the American Rescue Plan allow the State of Ohio to invest in areas that have seen funding cuts or have been overlooked; and

WHEREAS, this Council believes that the State of Ohio should invest a portion of its share of the monies received through the American Rescue Plan in Ohio's infrastructure, public health, transportation, and social services that have suffered because of cuts to the local government fund over time; and

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WHEREAS, this Council believes that the State of Ohio should also invest a portion of its share of the monies received through the American Rescue Plan in its most precious resource: its people; and

WHEREAS, this Council believes that the State of Ohio should use this opportunity to rebalance the tax code in favor of working Ohioans and look toward the future by closing special tax loopholes, re-establish the Corporate Profits tax, and increase Ohio's woefully low oil and gas severance tax; and

WHEREAS, establishing tax fairness in Ohio will allow Ohio to seize this opportunity by creating the long-term funding streams needed to invest in the public services that a healthy and happy workforce requires; and

WHEREAS, this Council believes that when businesses begin to pay their fair share, Ohio will have sufficient resources to invest in fixing our roads and bridges, expanding broadband infrastructure to all corners of the state, modernizing water and sewer facilities, providing excellent safety services, and a 21st century public transportation system.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, that:

SECTION 1. The City of Cleveland Heights hereby expresses its approval and support for the passage of laws and implementation of policy measures aimed at advancing tax fairness and improving public services. Such laws and measures would greatly increase economic opportunity in Ohio, provide access to high quality, affordable childcare, provide for greater early education opportunities, and allow expanded access to high-speed broadband to ensure our environment and public infrastructure is safe and sufficient for our communities in all corners of this state.

SECTION 2. Restoring the local government fund to its former levels will give the City an opportunity to provide better public health, transportation, infrastructure, and social and safety services to our residents.

SECTION 3. Notice of the passage of this Resolution shall be given by publishing the title and abstract of contents, prepared by the Director of Law, once in one newspaper of general circulation in the City of Cleveland Heights.

SECTION 4. This Resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency measure immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety of the inhabitants of the City of Cleveland Heights, such emergency being the need to express support and approval of tax reform supportive of fairness and the provision of public services. Wherefore, provided it receives the affirmative vote of five (5) or more of the members elected or appointed to this Council, this Resolution shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its passage; otherwise, it shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest time allowed by law.

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JASON S. STEIN
President of the Council

AMY HIMMELEIN
Clerk of Council

PASSED: May 3, 2021