COUNCIL OF THE
VILLAGE OF HIGHLAND HILLS

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-30

For the July 6, 2026
Special Council Meeting

Introduced by: Mayor Michael L. Booker
Supported by:

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING AND ADOPTING AN ALTERNATIVE TAX BUDGET FOR THE VILLAGE OF HIGHLAND HILLS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2027 AND SUBMITTING IT TO THE COUNTY AUDITOR OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

WHEREAS, the Mayor has heretofore prepared an alternative tax budget for the Village of Highland Hills, Ohio for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2027 detailing estimates of all revenue balances that will be available as January 1, 2027 for the various purposes during that tax year, and of all revenues to be received for fiscal year 2027 including all general and special taxes, fees, costs, percentages, penalties, allowances, prerequisites, and other types or classes of revenues; also estimates of all expenditures or charges for purposes of the fiscal year to be paid or met from the revenues or balances; and otherwise conforming to requirements of law; and;

WHEREAS, the Tax Budget has been made available for public inspection for at least ten (10) days by having at least two (2) copies on file in the office of the Director of Finance and the office of the Clerk of Council, pursuant to O.R.C. 5705.30, and

WHEREAS, pursuant to O.R.C. 5705.281, the Cuyahoga County Budget Commission has exercised its right to waive the requirements of O.R.C. 5705.28, which requires municipalities to adopt a tax budget by no later than July 15 of each calendar year and said Budget Commission has voted to require each municipality to submit an alternative tax budget to the office of the County Auditor by no later than July 15 of each year, and

WHEREAS, Council for the Village of Highland Hills, the Mayor and Finance Director have diligently worked towards preparing the alternative tax budget as permitted and required by law, and

WHEREAS, all requirements of O.R.C. 5705.28 and .281 and the requirements of the Budget Commission have been duly met.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE VILLAGE OF HIGHLAND HILLS, OHIO:

Section 1: Council hereby adopts the alternative tax budget of the Village of Highland Hills, Ohio for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2027 as the official tax budget of the Village. Said alternative tax budget has been prepared by the Mayor and submitted to this Council and is set forth more fully in Exhibit A, a true and accurate copy of which is attached hereto and incorporated herein fully by reference, copies of which are on file in the office of the Director of Finance and Clerk of Council.

Section 2: The Clerk is hereby directed to certify a copy of the tax budget and a copy of this Ordinance and to transmit them to the Auditor of Cuyahoga County, Ohio.

Section 3: Council finds and determines that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the passage of this Ordinance were adopted in an orderly meeting of this Council, and that all deliberations of this Council and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action were conducted in meetings open to the public and in compliance with all legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Section 4: This Ordinance is declared to be an emergency measure necessary to provide for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, safety and welfare of the inhabitants of the Village of Highland Hills, and further, it is necessary that this budget be approved by Council on or before July 15, 2025, provided it receives the affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of all members elected to Council, it shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

Passed in Council this 6th day of July, 2026.

First Reading ✓ Second Reading _____ Third Reading _____

Vote: Pride ✓ yea __ nay Greene ✓ yea __ nay Mills ✓ yea __ nay

McManus ✓ yea __ nay Wright ✓ yea __ nay

Cassandra Pride 7/6/26
Cassandra Pride Date
President of Council

Attest: Margaret Sikon 7/6/26
Margaret Sikon, Clerk of Council Date

Filed with the Mayor: ✓ 7/6/26
Date

Approved By: ______________________________ 7/6/26
Michael L. Booker, Mayor Date

2026-30

ALTERNATIVE TAX BUDGET INFORMATION

Political Subdivision/Taxing Unit__________Village of Highland Hills____________________________________

For the Fiscal Year Commencing____________January 1st, 2027____

Fiscal Officer Signature______________________________________Date 6/12/2026

COUNTY OF CUYAHOGA

Background

Substitute House Bill No. 129 (HB129) effective June 3, 2002, was enacted by the 124th General Assembly in part to allow a county budget commission to waive the requirement that a taxing authority adopt a tax budget for a political subdivision or other taxing unit, pursuant to Ohio Revised Code (ORC) Section 5705.281.

Ohio Revised Code Section 5705.281

Under the amended version of this section pursuant to HB 129, a county budget commission, by an affirmative vote of a majority of the commission, including an affirmative vote by the county auditor, may waive the tax budget for any subdivision or other taxing unit. However, the commission may require the taxing authority to provide any information needed by the commission to perform its duties, including the division of the tax rates as provided under ORC Section 5705.04.

County Budget Commission Duties

The county budget commission must still certify tax rates to each subdivision or other taxing unit, by March 1 for school districts and by September 1 for all other taxing authorities under ORC Section 5705.35, even when a tax budget is waived. Also, the commission is still required to issue an official certificate of estimated resources under ORC Section 5705.35 and amended official certificates of estimated resources under ORC Section 5705.36.

Therefore, when a budget commission is setting tax rates based on a taxing unit's need, for purposes of ORC Sections 5705.32, 5705.34, and 5705.341, its determination must be based on that other information the commission asked the taxing authority to provide under ORC Section 5705.281, when the tax budget was waived. Also, an official certificate must be based on that other information the commission asked the taxing authority to provide.

County Budget Commission Action

On October 11, 2002, during the Cuyahoga County Budget Commission meeting, the commission with an affirmative vote of all members waived the requirement for taxing authorities of subdivisions or other taxing units (Including Schools) to adopt a tax budget as provided under ORC Section 5705.281, but shall require the filing of this Alternative Tax Budget Information document on an annual basis

Alternative Tax Budget Information Filing Deadline

For all political subdivisions excluding school districts, the fiscal officer must file one copy of this document with the County Fiscal Officer on or before July 20th. For school districts the fiscal officer must file one copy of this document with the County Fiscal Officer on or before January 20th.

GUIDELINES FOR COMPLETING THE ALTERNATIVE TAX BUDGET INFORMATION

SCHEDULE 1

The general purpose of schedule 1 is to meet the requirement of Ohio Revised Code (ORC) Section 5705.04 which requires the taxing authority of each subdivision to divide the taxes levied into seperate levies. For help use the schedule B issued by the budget commission for the current year and add any new levies. This will help to ensure that no levies are missed.

In column 1 list only those individual funds which are requesting general property tax revenue. In column 2 purpose refers to the following terms, inside, current expenses, and special levy for example. In column 4 levy type refers to renewal, additional, and replacement for example. In column 9 identify the amount of general property tax you wish to request.

NOTE:

The general purpose of column 9 is to demonstrate the need to produce property tax revenues to cover the estimated expenditures for the budget year. ORC Section 5705.341 states in part;

"Nothing in this section or any section of the ORC shall permit or require the levying of any rate of taxation, whether within the 10 mill limitation or whether the levy has been approved by the electors, the political subdivision or the charter of a municipal corporation in excess of such 10 mill limitation, unless such rate of taxation for the ensuing fiscal year is clearly required by a budget properly and lawfully, adopted under this chapter or by other information required per ORC 5705.281."

Property tax revenue includes real estate taxes, personal property taxes, homestead and rollback, and the personal property 10,000 exempt monies.

SCHEDULE 2

The general purpose of schedule 2 is to produce an Official Certificate of Estimated Resources for all funds.
In column 3, total estimated receipts should include all revenues plus transfers in excluding property taxes and local government revenue. All taxing autl must submit a list of all tax transfers.

SCHEDULE 3

The general purpose of schedule 3 is to provide inside/charter millage for debt service. The basic security for payment of general obligation debt is the requirement of the levy of ad valorem property taxes within the 10 mill limitation imposed by Ohio law. Ohio law requires a levy and collection of ad valorem property tax to pay debt service on general obligation debt as it becomes due, unless that debt service is paid from other sources.

SCHEDULE 4

The general purpose of schedule 4 is to provide for the proper amount of millage to cover debt service requirements on voted bond issues. Major capital improvement projects are sometimes financed through the use of voted bonds. The taxing authority seeks voter approval of general obligation bonds and of the levy of property taxes outside the indirect debt limitation in whatever amount is necessary to pay debt service on those bonds.

SCHEDULE 5

The general purpose of schedule 5 is to properly account for tax anticipation notes. See schedule 5 for more details.

DIVISION OF TAXES LEVIED

(Levies Inside & Outside 10 Mill Limitation, Inclusive Of Debt Levies)
(List All Levies Of The Taxing Authority)

For the Fiscal Year Commencing ___________ January 1st, 2027 ___________

SCHEDULE 1

I Fund	II Purpose	III Authorized By Voters On MM/DD/YY	IV Levy Type	V Number Of Years Levy To Run	VI Tax Year Begins/ Ends	VII Collection Year Begins/ Ends	VIII Maximum Rate Authorized	IX $ AMOUNT Requested Of Budget Commission
General Fund	Current exp	N/A	Charter	Continuous	Continuous	Continuous	3.40	$160,000.00
General Fund	Current exp	11/4/2025	Renewal	5	2025/2029	2026/2030	6.00	$150,000.00
Fire Levy (A)	Current exp	11/7/2006	Charter	Continuous	Continuous	Continuous	4.00	$100,000.00
Fire Levy (B)	Special Levy	11/7/2006	Charter	Continuous	Continuous	Continuous	7.30	$175,000.00
Totals							20.70	585000.00

STATEMENT OF FUND ACTIVITY

(List All Funds Individually)

For the Fiscal Year Commencing January 1st, 2027

SCHEDULE 2

I Fund BY Type	II Beginning Estimated Unencumbered Fund Balance	III Property Taxes and Local Government Revenue	IV Other Sources Receipts	V Total Resources Available for Expenditures	VI Total Estimated Expenditures & Encumbrances	VII Ending Estimated Unencumbered Balance
General Fund	$ 5,591,508.80	$ 240,890.12	$ 4,000,000.00	$ 9,832,398.92	4,000,000.00	$ 5,832,398.92
Gasoline Tax Fund	$ 151,375.08		$ 18,000.00	$ 169,375.08	18,000.00	$ 151,375.08
Fire Levy Fund	$ (2,144,011.09)	$ 272,283.00	$ 985,000.00	$ (886,728.09)	900,000.00	$ (1,786,728.09)
SCMR Fund	$ 24,016.30		$ 10,000.00	$ 34,016.30	10,000.00	$ 24,016.30
State Highway Fund	$ 779.15			$ 779.15	0.00	$ 779.15
Law Enforcement Drug Fund	$ 21,038.94			$ 21,038.94	0.00	$ 21,038.94
MARCS Grant Fund	$ 5,245.20			$ 5,245.20	0.00	$ 5,245.20
Fire Training & Equipment Fund	$ 3,208.42			$ 3,208.42	0.00	$ 3,208.42
Special Fire Grant Fund	$ 3,037.75			$ 3,037.75	0.00	$ 3,037.75
Lighting Assessment Fund	$ (15,997.19)		$ 54,816.80	$ 38,819.61	54,816.80	$ (15,997.19)
General Obligation (Debt Service) Fund	$ 911,482.14		$ 360,000.00	$ 1,271,482.14	104,733.05	$ 1,166,749.09
Street Improvement Fund				$ -		$ -
Rental Operations Fund	$ 2,383,701.80		$ 771,000.00	$ 3,154,701.80	500,000.00	$ 2,654,701.80
Contractor's Deposit Fund	$ 171,863.07			$ 171,863.07	63,750.00	$ 108,113.07
Tenant's Deposits Fund	$ 38,007.62			$ 38,007.62	0.00	$ 38,007.62
Mayor's Court Fund	$ 367,882.73		$ 190,000.00	$ 557,882.73	202,000.00	$ 355,882.73
	$ 7,513,138.72	$ 513,173.12	$ 6,388,816.80	$ 14,415,128.64	$ 5,853,299.85	$ 8,561,828.79

UNVOTED GENERAL OBLIGATION DEBT

(Include General Obligation Debt To Be Paid From Inside/Charter Millage Only)
(Do Not Include General Obligation Debt Being Paid By Other Sources)
(Do Not Include Special Obligation Bonds & Revenue Bonds)

For the Fiscal Year Commencing January 1st, 2027

SCHEDULE 3

I	II	III	IV	V	VI
Purpose Of Bonds Or Notes	Date Of Issue	Final Maturity Date	Principal Amount Outstanding At The Beginning Of The Calendar Year	Amount Required To Meet Calendar Year Principal & Interest Payments	Amount Receivable From Other Sources To Meet Debt Payments
20 Year Mortgage on Municipal Complex	06/01/06	12/01/26	$36,225.33	$36,225.33	$0.00
Huntington LTGO Bond (Municipal Roof Complex)	11/30/16	12/15/26	$68,507.72	$68,507.72	$0.00
Totals			$104,733.05	$104,733.05	$0.00

VOTED DEBT OUTSIDE 10 MILL LIMIT

(Bonds Or Notes Must Actually Be Issued In Order To Commence Collection Of Property Taxes For Debt Service)
For the Fiscal Year Commencing____________January 1st, 2027______________________________

SCHEDULE 4

I Purpose Of Notes Or Bonds	II Authorized By Voters On MM/DD/YY	III Date Of Issue	IV Final Maturity Date	V Principal Amount Outstanding At The Beginning Of The Calendar Year	VI Amount Required To Meet Calendar Year Principal & Interest Payments	VII Amount Receivable From Other Sources To Meet Debt Payments

TAX ANTICIPATION NOTES

(Schools Only)

For the Fiscal Year Commencing: January 1st, 2027

SCHEDULE 5

Tax anticipation notes are issued in anticipation of the collection of the proceeds of a property tax levy. The amount of money required to cover debt service must be deposited into a bond retirement fund, from collections and distribution of the tax levy, in the amounts and at the times required to pay those debt charges as provided in the legislation authorizing the tax anticipation notes. (ORC Section 133.24)

The appropriation to the fund which normally receives the tax levy proceeds is limited to the balance available after deducting the amounts to be applied to debt service.

After the issuance of general obligation securities or of securities to which section 133.24 of the ORC applies, the taxing authority of the subdivision shall include in its annual tax budget, and levy a property tax in a sufficient amount, with any other monies available for the purpose, to pay the debt charges on the securities payable from property tax. (ORC Section 133.25)

	Name Of Tax Anticipation Note Issue	Name Of Tax Anticipation Note Issue
Amount Required To Meet Budget Year Principal & Interest Payments:		
Principal Due		
Principal Due Date		
Interest Due		
Interest Due Date		
Interest Due		
Interest Due Date		
Total		
Name Of The Special Debt Service Fund		

Amount Of Debt Service To Be Apportioned To The Following Settlements:		
February Real		
August Real		
June Tangible		
October Tangible		
Total		
Name Of Fund To Be Charged		