

Prue Dana, Co-Chair for Voter Services. "The League Looks at Ballot Issue 13: The League of Women Voters of Oxford Endorses the Senior Services Levy on the Ballot This November." *The Oxford Press*. 11 October 2015: A3

The League of Women Voters, at all levels, local, state and national, is a non-partisan organization. The League does not endorse political parties or candidates. It does, however, take positions on issues, positions based on study and on consensus of its membership. Once a position is adopted, the League can advocate for an issue the position supports. The League of Women Voters of Oxford thus urges renewal of the Senior Services Levy, Ballot Issue 13, in this November 2015 election.

This endorsement is based on the 1972 and 1982 local positions that support senior citizens and the Senior Center for the provision of services and activities to older citizens in the Oxford area financed by public and private funding.

The 1979 position was amended in 2010 and 2013 to include local, consistent, transportation for the elderly and/or disabled in the Oxford Area, also financed by public and private funding. The rationale is that citizens needing public transportation need it year round, not just when school or the university is in session.

The Butler County Elderly Services Program makes a big difference for thousands of families who are caring for older loved ones. It helps working families keep mom and dad at home. It helps long-married spouses care for each other and stay together. For those seniors who have no family nearby, it makes a difference in quality of life. The services provided include Meals on Wheels, homemaking help, and transportation. Assistance and care are only a phone call away.

The Levy is a flat renewal of the one and three tenths mills for each one dollar of valuation that was voted on in 2010. This (1.3) mills amounts to thirteen cents for each one hundred dollars of valuation, for a period of 5 years. This means that taxes will not increase but will stay the same as they are now.

The tax levy provides 90% of the funding for the program. The program would not exist without support from the levy. According to its annual report, the Elderly Services Program served more than 3,800 Butler County Elderly Seniors in 2014. It costs an average of \$306 per month to help a senior on the Elderly Services Program. If that same person were in a nursing home on Medicaid, it would cost taxpayers 14 times that much--more than \$4,000 a month.

Butler County can be proud of its Elderly Services Program. Let's vote to keep it going by voting "Yes" to Ballot Issue 13 this November.