# November 3, 2026 Ballot Explainers

**Election:** General Election, Tuesday, November 3, 2026. Toledo and Lucas County, Ohio. **Reading level:** Written so an 8th grader can understand it. **Tone:** Neutral. These explain what each issue does. They do not tell you how to vote. **Source for issue numbers, ballot language, and costs:** Official sample ballot, Lucas County Board of Elections (precinct TOLEDO 9F). All cost-per-$100,000 figures are the Lucas County Auditor's estimates printed on the ballot.

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## Key Dates

- **Last day to register to vote:** Monday, October 5, 2026
- **Early in-person voting:** Tuesday, October 6 through Sunday, November 1. No early voting on Monday, November 2.
- **Election Day:** Tuesday, November 3, 2026

**Source:** https://www.wtol.com/article/news/politics/elections/ohio-early-voting-2026-dates-hours-id-locations/512-09e824d2-e351-4ae2-88cd-1644b7a2f735

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## Issue 3: Voter Photo ID (Statewide)

**What you will see on the ballot:** A proposed amendment to the Ohio Constitution "to require voters to present photo identification in order to vote."

**What it means in plain language:** Ohio law already requires a photo ID to vote in person. This issue would put a photo ID rule in the Ohio Constitution. A regular law can be changed by lawmakers. A rule in the constitution can only be changed by another statewide vote.

**What the amendment would do, according to the ballot:** - Require voters to show an approved government-issued photo ID to vote. - Allow (but not require) state law to provide another way to verify identity for a voter who has

a sincere religious objection to being photographed. - Require voters who do not vote in person, such as by mail, to provide an approved photo ID, unless state law lets them vote using a signature and at least one other specified unique identifier.

**Approved photo IDs under the amendment:** - An Ohio driver's license or state ID card that has not expired - A U.S. passport or passport card - A U.S. military ID, Ohio National Guard ID, or U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs ID card

**What this means for mail voting today:** Under current law, absentee voters can use a copy of a photo ID, their Ohio driver's license or state ID number, or the last four digits of their Social Security number. In June 2026, lawmakers passed a bill to require photo ID for mail voting. Governor DeWine vetoed it, so it is not the law.

**Key facts:** - This is the only statewide issue on the November 2026 ballot. - If approved, it takes effect immediately. - It needs a majority yes vote to pass.

**Sources:** - Official ballot language, Lucas County Board of Elections sample ballot - https://www.ohiosos.gov/office/media-center/categories/press-releases/2026-08-18 - https://www.wkyc.com/article/news/politics/elections/ohio-issue-3-voter-id-explained-2026/512-8a0dbd21-e427-4b96-b3f5-ae96e429d986 - https://signalohio.org/ballot-language-set-for-ohio-issue-3-voter-id-amendment-november-election-2026/

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## Issue 8: Toledo Lucas County Public Library Levy (Countywide)

**What you will see on the ballot:** "An additional tax for the benefit of the Toledo Lucas County Public Library for the purpose of current expenses."

**What it means in plain language:** This is a new 3-mill property tax to pay the library's day-to-day operating costs. It lasts 5 years.

**What it costs you:** $105 a year for every $100,000 of your home's market value. A $150,000 home would pay about $158 a year.

The county auditor estimates it would raise about $34.3 million a year.

**Key facts:** - The library says its current 3.7-mill levy expires at the end of 2027. - The library says the new levy would cost a homeowner $12.42 more per year per $100,000 than the current one. - The library says a change in state funding cost it nearly $2 million, and that the new levy would restore lost service hours. - It needs a majority yes vote to pass. - If approved, it is first collected in 2027.

**Sources:** - Official ballot language, Lucas County Board of Elections sample ballot - https://www.toledolibrary.org/ohiolibrarybudget/ - https://www.13abc.com/2026/07/14/toledo-lucas-county-public-library-continues-see-impact-state-funding-cut/

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## Issue 9: Toledo Public Schools 6.9-Mill Levy

**What you will see on the ballot:** "An additional tax for the benefit of Toledo City School District for the purpose of current expenses."

**What it means in plain language:** This is a new 6.9-mill property tax to pay the district's day-to-day operating costs. It lasts 5 years.

**What it costs you:** $242 a year for every $100,000 of your home's market value. A $150,000 home would pay about $363 a year.

The county auditor estimates it would raise about $22.8 million a year.

**Key facts:** - The district treasurer told the school board the district ended the fiscal year with about $9.9 million in carryover, and that one payroll can be about $8.7 million. - The treasurer gave these yearly deficit figures: $21.4 million in 2023, $32.8 million in 2024, $48.2 million in 2025, and $24.0 million in 2026. - The treasurer said the levy could keep the district solvent "at least to 2030" under current forecasts. - District leaders said the district used about $170 million in federal pandemic (ESSER) funds on programs and positions that were not self-sustaining once that money ended. - The board also discussed a 1 percent income tax, which the treasurer said would raise about $33 million a year. It chose the property levy after consultants advised that the

district's voting history favored property levies. - It needs a majority yes vote to pass. - If approved, it is first collected in 2027.

**Sources:** - Official ballot language, Lucas County Board of Elections sample ballot - https://citizenportal.ai/articles/8510172/ohio/school-districts/toledo-city/toledo-public-schools-board-certifies-69mill-property-levy-to-appear-on-nov-3-ballot

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## Issue 13: Imagination Station Levy Renewal (Countywide)

**What you will see on the ballot:** "A renewal of a tax for the benefit of the County of Lucas for the purpose of operation and maintenance of the Imagination Station, Toledo's non-profit science center."

**What it means in plain language:** This continues an existing 0.17-mill property tax for the Imagination Station, Toledo's nonprofit science center. It is a renewal, not a new tax.

**What it costs you:** $3 a year for every $100,000 of your home's market value.

The county auditor estimates it would raise about $1.3 million a year.

**Key facts:** - It lasts 5 years, starting in 2027, first collected in 2028. - It needs a majority yes vote to pass.

**Sources:** - Official ballot language, Lucas County Board of Elections sample ballot

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## Issue 16: City of Toledo Income Tax for Public Safety

**What you will see on the ballot:** "Shall Ordinance No. 301-26 providing for a new temporary one-quarter percent (.25%) City of Toledo levy on income... for the purpose of allocating the levy proceeds to the General Fund to be dedicated to neighborhood safety expenditures, and to police and fire safety force operations, including criminal gang disruption, be passed?"

**What it means in plain language:** This adds a temporary 0.25 percent city income tax on top of Toledo's existing income taxes. It runs from January 1, 2027, through December 31, 2030. The money goes into the city's General Fund but is dedicated to neighborhood safety, police and fire operations, and gang disruption.

This is an income tax, not a property tax.

**What it costs you:** 0.25 percent works out to $2.50 for every $1,000 of taxable income. Someone earning $50,000 working in Toledo would pay about $125 a year.

**Key facts:** - The city expects it to raise about $25 million a year. - The mayor said that if it passes, the city could double police and fire academy class sizes. - The City Council president said the measure is an effort to cut into the city's $49 million deficit. - It ends December 31, 2030, unless voters approve it again. - It needs a majority yes vote to pass.

**Sources:** - Official ballot language, Lucas County Board of Elections sample ballot (Ordinance No. 301-26) - https://www.13abc.com/2026/07/14/toledo-council-approves-proposal-send-public-safety-income-tax-increase-voters/ - https://www.yahoo.com/news/politics/articles/toledo-mayor-makes-case-issue-032142120.html - https://www.newsbreak.com/the-blade-1588774/4746630908832-toledo-proposes-temporary-income-tax-to-avert-police-fire-cuts

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## Issue 17: Toledo Charter Change: City Council Employees

**What you will see on the ballot:** Proposed amendments to three sections of the Toledo city charter, set out in Ordinance 302-26.

**What it does, according to the ballot:** 1. **Chapter I, Section 6:** Removes outdated language and updates the definition of "employee" to include members of the unclassified service. 2. **Chapter IV, Section 33:** Lets City Council decide the conditions of employment for its own officers and employees, including hiring, discipline, and firing. 3. **Chapter VIII, Section**

**171:** Makes City Council officers and employees members of the unclassified service.

**In plain language:** City Council would directly control the hiring, discipline, and firing of its own staff, and those staff would be placed in the "unclassified service."

**Key facts:** - Issues 17, 18, and 19 break out pieces of a larger package of charter amendments that failed a few years ago. - It needs a majority yes vote to pass.

**Sources:** - Official ballot language, Lucas County Board of Elections sample ballot (Ordinance 302-26) - https://toledocitypaper.com/feature/we-got-issues/

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## Issue 18: Toledo Charter Change: Election Rules

**What you will see on the ballot:** Proposed amendments to four sections of the Toledo city charter, set out in Ordinance 304-26, to line up with state election law.

**What it does, according to the ballot:** 1. Candidates who file a nominating petition for a primary would no longer also have to file a written acceptance of nomination. 2. Anyone who wants to be a write-in candidate would have to declare it on the forms set by the state. 3. When citizens turn in referendum or initiative petitions, the deadline for holding the election would increase from 75 days to 90 days. 4. All petitions would have to follow the forms set by the state.

**Key facts:** - This comes after Toledo's primary election moved from September to May to line up with state law. - It needs a majority yes vote to pass.

**Sources:** - Official ballot language, Lucas County Board of Elections sample ballot (Ordinance 304-26) - https://toledocitypaper.com/feature/we-got-issues/

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## Issue 19: Toledo Charter Change: How Charter Amendments Get on the Ballot

**What you will see on the ballot:** "Shall Chapter I, Section 5 be amended to be consistent with the Ohio Constitution by requiring Council to approve proposed Charter amendments by an ordinance rather than a resolution, and to rewrite the Section to describe the requirements of the Charter amendment process more clearly, as set forth in Ordinance 305-26?"

**What it means in plain language:** When City Council wants to send a charter change to voters, it would have to pass an ordinance instead of a resolution. The section would also be rewritten to explain the charter amendment process more clearly.

**Key facts:** - The ballot says this makes the charter consistent with the Ohio Constitution. - It needs a majority yes vote to pass.

**Sources:** - Official ballot language, Lucas County Board of Elections sample ballot (Ordinance 305-26) - https://toledocitypaper.com/feature/we-got-issues/

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## School District Issues (Only for Voters in These Districts)

- **Issue 4, Evergreen Local Schools:** Renewal of a 0.25 percent income tax. Voters rejected this renewal in August, so it is back on the ballot.
- **Issue 5, Maumee City Schools:** New 1.25 percent income tax.
- **Issue 6, Springfield Local Schools:** New 0.5 percent income tax.
- **Issue 7, Sylvania City Schools:** New 1 percent earned income tax paired with a 1.7-mill property tax cut. The district says the cut would lower property taxes by $35 for every $100,000 of home value, and the income tax applies to earned income only, not retirement income. Voters rejected a 7.9-mill property levy in May. The school board approved more than $11 million in cuts that would take effect if this measure fails.
- **Issue 9, Toledo Public Schools:** See above.

**Sources:** - https://toledocitypaper.com/feature/we-got-issues/ - https://www.sylvania.k12.oh.us/LevyInformation.aspx - https://www.13abc.com/

2026/07/23/sylvania-board-education-approves-resolution-place-earned-income-tax-levy-nov-ballot/ - https://www.yahoo.com/news/politics/articles/sylvania-schools-board-approves-over-214210681.html

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## Notes

- The Toledo Zoo levy and the Lucas County 911 levy were on the May 5, 2026 ballot, not November.
- Check your own sample ballot at the Lucas County Board of Elections: https://lucascountyohiovotes.gov/current_election/index.php

*Verified October 4, 2026.*