

Resolution No. 1359-2024

**By Council Members Spencer,
Slife, Harsh, Bishop, Kelly, Kazy**

AN EMERGENCY RESOLUTION
Urging Governor DeWine and the Ohio
General Assembly to immediately adopt
targeted property tax relief for Ohioans who
are being taxed out of their homes.

WHEREAS, residents of the City of Cleveland have appealed to elected officials to address the increasingly onerous property tax burden that Ohioans are facing – burdens that disproportionately affect those with fixed incomes; and

WHEREAS, over the past decade, elected leaders at the State of Ohio have made the deliberate and intentional choice of tax shifting; state policymakers have shifted more of the responsibility for funding essential services off the state and onto our communities, forcing middle-class families, working people, veterans, and seniors to pay more in taxes; and

WHEREAS, Ohio's cities, counties, and townships are working with about a billion dollars less per year from the State compared to what they received in 2011, putting even more pressure on property taxpayers to keep police officers on patrol, firehouses open, and roads paved; and

WHEREAS, the Ohio State Legislature has a menu of options it could adopt today to provide targeted, direct relief for those who are being taxed out of their homes – without running afoul of the Ohio Constitution or siphoning away critical resources for public education, first responders, and other public services necessary for strong communities and a robust economy; and

WHEREAS, the Ohio General Assembly should pass a tax break for senior citizens on fixed incomes by expanding the homestead exemption program; as property values have risen over the last decade, many seniors have seen their homestead credit decrease with a roughly \$25,000 reduction on their home's assessed value, meaning less and less each reappraisal; and

WHEREAS, an example of such policies, House Bill 60 increases the homestead exemption to \$40,000, indexed to inflation, and expands eligibility to an additional 75,000 seniors who are struggling to afford higher property taxes; any expansion of the homestead exemption should be state-funded and fully reimburse local governments and public schools, a precedent that has been in place since the 1970s; and

WHEREAS, the Ohio General Assembly should pass a targeted tax cut by adopting a property tax "circuit breaker" for struggling homeowners and renters who are being taxed out of their homes; and

WHEREAS, an example of such policies, House Bill 645 is bipartisan legislation to provide a property tax rebate for Ohioans making less than \$100,000 a year whose property tax bill (or rent payment) exceeds 5% of their income; already law in 29 states, this \$1,000 property tax rebate would benefit over 1 in 6 Ohioans, especially low-income individuals in gentrifying areas with skyrocketing home values; and

WHEREAS, efforts to provide direct property tax relief should hold local governments harmless to avoid putting an additional burden on our communities to fund public services; and

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WHEREAS, this resolution constitutes an emergency measure for the immediate preservation of public peace, property, health or safety, now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CLEVELAND:

Section 1. That this Council urges Governor DeWine and the Ohio General Assembly to immediately adopt targeted property tax relief for Ohioans who are being taxed out of their homes.

Section 2. That the Clerk of Council is directed to transmit copies of this resolution to all members of the Ohio General Assembly whose districts include the City of Cleveland.

Section 3. That this resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency measure and, provided it receives the affirmative vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to Council, it shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its adoption and approval by the Mayor; otherwise it shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

/jho
12/2/2024
For: Councilmember Spencer

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REPORT
after second Reading

By Council Members Spencer, Slife, Harsh, Bishop, Kelly, Kazy

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READ FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD TIME

and referred to

REPORTS

CITY CLERK

READ SECOND TIME

CITY CLERK

READ THIRD TIME on DECEMBER 2, 2024

PRESIDENT

CITY CLERK

APPROVED

MAYOR

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