

**STATE OF INDIANA**  
**DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE**  
**Room 1058, IGCN – 100 North Senate**  
**Indianapolis, IN 46204**

**IN THE MATTER OF THE REQUEST                    )**  
**OF VERNON TOWNSHIP, HANCOCK            )**       **A23-038**  
**COUNTY, FOR AN EXCESS LEVY            )**  
**DUE TO THREE-YEAR GROWTH            )**

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The Department of Local Government Finance (“Department”) has reviewed an appeal by Vernon Township, Hancock County (“Township”) for an excess levy in the amount of \$35,000 to its civil maximum levy due to three-year growth. Ind. Code § 6-1.1-18.5-13 allows the Department to grant permission to a civil taxing unit to increase its maximum levy if the Department finds that the quotient determined under Step Six of the following formula is equal to or greater than one and two-hundredths (1.02):

Step 1: Determine the three calendar years that most immediately precede the ensuing calendar year:

*2023, 2022, and 2021*

Step 2: Compute separately, for each of the calendar years determined in Step 1, the quotient (rounded to the nearest ten-thousandth (0.0001)) of the sum of the civil taxing unit's total assessed value of all taxable property divided by the sum determined under this Step for the calendar year immediately preceding the particular calendar year.:

*Township assessed values for 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023, respectively:*

<i>2020:</i>	<i>646,115,573</i>
<i>2021:</i>	<i>710,537,040</i>
<i>2022:</i>	<i>781,536,451</i>
<i>2023:</i>	<i>988,480,191</i>

*Step 2 quotients:*

<i>2021/2020:</i>	<i>1.0997</i>
<i>2022/2021:</i>	<i>1.0999</i>
<i>2023/2022:</i>	<i>1.2648</i>

Step 3: Sum the results of Step 2 and divide by three:

*1.1548 ([1.0997+1.0999+1.2648]/3)*

Step 4: Compute separately, for each of the calendar years determined in Step 1, the quotient (rounded to the nearest ten-thousandth (0.0001)) of the sum of the total assessed value of all taxable property in all counties divided by the sum determined under this Step for the calendar year immediately preceding the particular calendar year.

*Statewide average quotients for 2021, 2022, and 2023, respectively:*

*1.0392; 1.0541; 1.1481*

Step 5: Add the Step 4 results and divide by three:  
*1.0804 ([1.0392; 1.0541; 1.1481]/3)*

Step 6: Divide the Step 3 results by the Step 5 results:  
*1.0688 (1.1548/1.0804)*

The maximum amount that the Department may award is the amount by which Step 3 exceeds the maximum levy growth quotient (“MLGQ”) as calculated according to Ind. Code § 6-1.1-18.5-2 (this amount is 1.04 or 4% for 2024; since 1.0688 is greater than 1.020, the Township is eligible for a three-year growth appeal):  
*0.1148 (11.48%) (1.1548-1.0400)*

The Township’s 2023 maximum civil levy is \$244,208. This is the most recent civil maximum levy that the Department can use as the basis for an adjustment. Multiplying this figure by the 11.48% growth factor calculated above results in a figure of \$28,307, which is the maximum for which the Township could qualify under the statutory formula. Under Ind. Code § 6-1.1-18.5-12(a), the Township must also show that it is unable to perform its government functions without this increase.

The Township states in its appeal that the excess levy that, with respect to its civil levies, there will be a higher demand for township assistance as its population increases. The Township also states, however, that funding the fire protection territory is its highest priority and “has been increasing its contribution from the Township General Fund to the Special Fire Fund over the last two years.” The Township has also submitted an excess levy appeal for the fire protection territory for pay-2024.

The Township’s Form 3 states an excess levy amount of \$35,000 in the General Fund. The Township received permanent excess levies for pay-2022 in the amount of \$4,065 and pay-2023 in the amount of \$6,871.

The Department made an inquiry about the increased township assistance needs and transfers from the General Fund. The Township responded that in the first six months of 2023 operating expenses township assistance were \$11,415 higher than the same time in 2022. The Township could not make the same comparison for the second half of the year, but noted expenses in the last half of 2022 was \$25,525. The Township also stated that personnel costs related to township assistance will be moved from Township Assistance to the General Fund starting in 2024.

With respect to the transfer of funds to the fire protection territory funds, the Township responded that these are planned transfers, with the transfer amount in 2024 being \$572,000, a 4% increase from 2023.

After a review of the petition, the Department, following Ind. Code § 6-1.1-18.5-12 and 13, and in consideration of all evidence provided, finds as follows:

**APPROVED WITH MODIFICATION:**

The Township's excess levy appeal is approved in the amount of **\$28,037**. This figure reflects the amount for which the Township qualifies under the statutory three-year growth formula and does not exceed the amount for which the Township advertised and petitioned the Department. This is a one-time, permanent increase.

STATE OF INDIANA  
DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE

**WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL** of this Department on this 6 day of December, 2023.



**Daniel Shackle, Commissioner**