

ORDINANCE NO. 2012-45

DIRECTING THE WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS TO SUBMIT TO THE ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF MASON, OHIO, AT THE NOVEMBER 6, 2012, GENERAL ELECTION, A CHARTER AMENDMENT TO CREATE SECTION 10.05 REGARDING FUNDING OF SAFETY, FIRE, AND EMS SERVICES

WHEREAS, the proposed Charter amendment does not increase tax rates for Mason homeowners or their dependents; and

WHEREAS, the State of Ohio has stopped giving Mason \$700,000 of Fire and EMS funding per year; and

WHEREAS, Mason wants to maintain the same level of Fire and EMS Services it now has; and

WHEREAS, Mason has not increased its Fire and EMS Levy rate since 1998; and

WHEREAS, Mason does not want to increase, but to retain the same real estate tax rate as exists now for its residents; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Charter amendment restricts Council from raising tax rates; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Charter amendment allows Council to lower tax rates.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Mason, Ohio, _____ members elected thereto concurring:

Section 1. That Section 10.05 Funding of Safety, Fire, and EMS Services, of the Charter of the City of Mason, be adopted as set forth in Exhibit A, attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.

Section 2. That this matter shall be placed on the November 6, 2012, general election ballot for consideration by the electors of the City of Mason.

Section 3. That this Ordinance is found to be the submission of a question to the electorate, and pursuant to Section 4.08 of the Charter of the City of Mason, shall be effective immediately upon its passage.

Passed this ____ day of _____, 2012.

Mayor

Attest:

Clerk of Council

CERTIFICATE

The undersigned, Clerk of Council of the City of Mason, hereby certifies the foregoing Ordinance to be a true and correct copy of Ordinance No. _____ adopted on the _____ day of _____, 2012.

Clerk of Council

Exhibit "A"

**PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT
CITY OF MASON**

The proposed Charter amendment funds the City's Fire, EMS and Safety Services and replaces the City's current real estate tax levy for Fire and EMS Services:

- The proposed Charter amendment does not increase tax rates for Mason homeowners or their dependents; and
- The State of Ohio has stopped giving Mason \$700,000 of Fire and EMS funding per year.
- Mason wants to maintain the same level of Fire and EMS Services it now has.
- Mason has not increased its Fire and EMS Levy rate since 1998.
- Mason does not want to increase, but to retain the same real estate tax rate as exists now for its residents.
- The proposed Charter amendment restricts Council from raising tax rates.
- The proposed Charter amendment allows Council to lower tax rates.

Section 10.05 FUNDING OF SAFETY, FIRE AND EMS SERVICES

Mason shall raise funds to pay for safety, fire and EMS services through two revenue sources. First, a continuing real estate tax levy not to exceed 5.0 mills may be imposed on Mason real estate commencing in tax year 2013 for collection beginning in 2014. This levy shall continue until changed by the electors of Mason through an amendment to this charter provision. Second, a not to exceed .0015 tax on income shall be collected by Mason in the same manner as the income tax set forth in section 10.04 of the Charter, with the exception that those who own and live in homes in Mason, and who therefore pay the real estate tax set forth above, shall be exempted from the not to exceed .0015 income tax along with their dependents.

This income tax shall be imposed starting on January 1, 2013 and shall be at a rate of .0012 during calendar year 2013, and cannot be changed except by legislative action receiving an affirmative vote of at least five council members, and can only take effect on January 1 of the calendar year following legislative action, provided that such legislative action takes place at least six months prior to the effective date and shall not exceed .0015.

If any portion of this section is deemed to be unenforceable, only the unenforceable portions of this section shall be deleted and the remainder shall remain in force.

Shall the proposed amendment of section 10.05 of the Charter for the City of Mason be Adopted?

☐ YES

☐ NO