

Change

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Lake County Local Government Fund distributions — fiscal year 2011

State law stipulates a county keeps 30 percent of the Local Government Fund and then the rest is divided among the various entities unless there is an alternative distribution formula in place in a county such as Lake, said Troy, who researched the matter.

State law also allows a change to be considered once every five years and the deadline for commissioners to act during this window is Jan. 31, which is Tuesday, he said.

Since 1982, the county has received 11 percent of the allocation rather than the full 30 percent, Troy said. One other county government took less than 30 percent of the state funding — Belmont County, which keeps 16 percent — while the other 86 counties take 30 percent or more.

Neighboring Cuyahoga, Geauga and Ashland counties keep 30 percent, 38 percent and 36 percent, respectively, Troy said. Several counties keep up to 60 percent.

Lake County as a whole received \$16,888,722 in fiscal year 2011 from the Local Government Fund and after allocations to the communities, the county kept \$1,832,578.

The remaining \$15,056,144 is distributed to 25 other political subdivisions within the county and includes two communities that get a larger share than the county — Mentor (\$2,706,603) and Willoughby (\$1,887,382).

By keeping 30 percent rather than 11 percent, the county's share would have been \$5,066,616 — an increase of \$3,234,038, county Budget Director Joel A. DiMare said.

"The local governments in this county in terms of the Local Government Fund have had the sweetest deal in the entire state of Ohio for the past 30 years," Troy said.

He said county officials estimated that during that time, about \$75 million to \$125 million went to the communities rather than remaining in the county coffers.

"I'm suggesting the board do this because it just hasn't been a good deal for the county," Troy said. "It's been basically a contribution over and above what every county has been doing."

Troy said it might be difficult to make the change, but he still wanted to bring the issue to light.

Mentor City Manager Ken Filipiak said the proposal couldn't have come at a worse time.

"It's another example of commissioners taking an action that would significantly impact the cities of Lake County without any discus-

Political subdivision	Percentage	Total
Madison Township	2.0705	\$349,681
Madison Village	0.7805	\$131,816
Perry Township	1.4697	\$248,213
Perry Village	1.1541	\$194,912
North Perry Village	0.8174	\$138,048
Leroy Township	0.443	\$74,817
Concord Township	1.1908	\$201,110
Painesville Township	1.8349	\$309,874
Grand River	0.04624	\$78,093
Fairport Harbor	1.8413	\$310,972
Painesville	7.1887	\$1,214,079
Mentor	16.0261	\$2,706,603
Mentor-on-the-Lake	2.7681	\$467,496
Kirtland	2.28	\$385,062
Kirtland Hills	1.183	\$199,793
Waite Hill	1.2698	\$214,453
Willoughby	11.4754	\$1,887,382
Willowick	8.7915	\$1,484,772
Wickliffe	9.2888	\$1,568,759
Lakeline	0.1568	\$26,481
Willoughby Hills	3.8876	\$656,565
Timberlake	0.3365	\$56,830
Eastlake	10.5036	\$1,773,923
Lake County	10.8509	\$1,832,578
Lake Metroparks	1.6287	\$275,066
Painesville Township Park	0.6	\$101,332
Total	100	\$16,888,722

Source: Lake County Commissioners Office

to the city of Eastlake and other cities that the county would keep more of the Local Government Fund that already has been cut for us," he said.

"They just raised the sales tax a half percent, how much more money do they want to take from the city and its residents?"

Troy said it's also possible the discussion could be moot or lessened in value in the next few years as state lawmakers might consider cutting the Local Government Fund further or in its entirety.

Eastlake Mayor Ted Andrzejewski would not support the commissioners' proposal.

"It would be another blow to the city of Eastlake and other cities that the county would keep more of the Local Government Fund that already has been cut for us," he said.

"My council and the business community in Mentor is still reeling from the quick decision to double the sales tax and we had no idea how it would impact," he said.

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Funding change sought

Commissioners want county to keep larger Local Government Fund share

John Arthur Hutchison
JHutchison@News-Herald.com
Twitter: @newsheraldjah

Lake County commissioners have asked for a repeal of the formula that determines how the state's Local

Government Fund annual allocation of funds is distributed by the county to the various communities.

Commissioners unanimously approved a resolution Thursday that seeks to eliminate an alternative distribution formula that has been in

place for nearly 30 years.

The resolution asks the Lake County Budget Commission to address the matter. Members of the commission are the county auditor, treasurer and prosecutor.

For a change to occur, state law

also requires the governing bodies of the largest city in a county — in this case Mentor — and a majority of the communities to also pass resolutions to approve the change, Commissioner Daniel P. Troy said. Commissioners realize changing

the way the Local Government Fund is allocated in the county might be a tough sell because it would mean fewer dollars go to communities and the county would keep a larger share.

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