

RESOLUTION 25 – 21, 2025
COLUMBIA TOWNSHIP, HAMILTON COUNTY, OHIO

**OPPOSING THE REMOVAL OR REDUCTION OF HOST COMMUNITY SALES TAX
REVENUE FROM ADULT-USE CANNABIS DISPENSARIES, FROM THE FULL
PERCENTAGE AND TERM AS APPROVED BY OHIO VOTERS IN ISSUE 2,
BY THE OHIO GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN THE STATE OPERATING BILL
FOR FISCAL YEARS 2026-27, DISPENSING WITH
THE SECOND READING, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

WHEREAS, the Ohio General Assembly is attempting to deprive communities, like Columbia Township, that allowed cannabis dispensaries to locate within their jurisdictions of their previously-promised revenues; these revenues were to be distributed by the state to “Host Communities” to use for local community and economic benefit purposes; and

WHEREAS, Columbia Township is an urbanized township bordering the City of Cincinnati and is confronted daily with mounting challenges to meet increasing demand for public safety and health services, and public infrastructure, amid historically high real property taxes; and

WHEREAS, after Ohio voters passed Issue 2 in 2023 which authorized recreational marijuana (also known as “Adult-Use”):

Section 1 Ohio Legislators in 2025 are seeking to **strip away the promised and relied-upon local revenues through new legislation to eliminate the Host Community Cannabis Fund** and to retain all sales tax revenues for the state to decide how to spend. Issue 2 authorized the regulation, possession, sale, and use, and authorized sharing Ohio sales tax revenues with Host Communities (“Host Community Cannabis Fund”); and

Section 2 The Trustees of Columbia Township and other Host Communities stand united in our statutory duty to serve and protect our citizens, and **view the State’s actions to eliminate or reduce the Host Community Fund as a broken promise to voters**. Governor DeWine, who opposed legalizing marijuana for recreational use, has publicly stated he plans to take 100% of the dispensary revenues and that the State knows best how to spend the money.

WHEREAS, the Columbia Township Board of Trustees opposes House Bill 96, the current Ohio Operating Bill for Fiscal Years 2026-27, and all related legislation that eliminates the Host Community Cannabis Fund or modifies the share percentage owed or term of payments; and

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WHEREAS, ORC 3780.22(A) currently states for the Adult Use Tax:

For the purpose of supporting social equity issues, providing funds to support jobs and economic development, **providing funding for host communities** who have adult use dispensaries in their jurisdiction to support these communities, funding education and treatment for individuals with cannabis and other addiction issues, and defraying the costs of regulation and administering the tax, there shall be an adult use tax on the sale of adult use cannabis by adult use dispensaries to adult use consumers in accordance with this chapter.

WHEREAS, after Ohio and Columbia Township voters overwhelmingly voted YES FOR ISSUE 2 in 2023, the Columbia Township Board of Trustees in 2024 voted to allow the community's existing two medical cannabis dispensaries to become dual-use dispensaries.

WHEREAS, Columbia Township relies principally on real property taxes to deliver police, fire, roads, and other statutory public services. Based on the revenue from the voter-approved Issue 2, which reflected the will of the majority of Ohio's voters, and the promised Host Community Cannabis Fund, Columbia budgeted in 2024 to:

1. Reduce the financial burden of higher property taxes that impact our residents and businesses by extending – not increasing – existing levies.
2. Invest in public safety infrastructure and systems through our contract with the Hamilton County Sheriff.
3. Continue to directly subsidize our joint fire district.
4. Invest in declining urban neighborhoods and business districts through economic and community development and including road improvements

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Township Trustees, Columbia Township, acting on behalf of the citizens of the Township, are opposed to all current actions by the state legislature and governor against the Host Community Fund including its complete elimination, reduction of percentage of revenues shared, or limits on the number of years that revenues are shared.


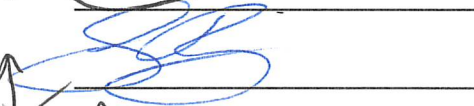

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Trustees of Columbia Township upon majority vote do hereby dispense with the requirement that this Resolution be read on two separate days, and hereby authorize the adoption of this Resolution upon its first reading.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED by the Trustees of Columbia Township, upon unanimous vote, hereby declare this Resolution to be an emergency measure necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, and welfare of the Township; the reason for the emergency is the immediate need to protect the Township's right to receive much-needed revenues from the Host Community Cannabis Fund so the Township can accomplish the numerous public purposes outlined above.

Motion to accept Resolution made by: MR. KUBICKI

Seconded by: MR. LAMAR

TRUSTEE	Voting	Signature	Date
David Kubicki, President	<u>yes</u>		05/13/2025
Brian Lamar, Vice President	<u>yes</u>		05/13/2025
Steve Brokamp, Trustee	<u>yes</u>		05/13/2025

ATTEST:  05/13/2025
Caroline Heekin, Fiscal Office