

OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



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April 22, 2021

Huron City School District
Superintendent Dennis Muratori
Treasurer Randy Drewyor
Board President Paul Ward
712 Cleveland Road East
Huron, OH 44839

*Via email to: dmuratori@huron-city.k12.oh.us
rdrewyor@huron-city.k12.oh.us
pward@huron-city.k12.oh.us*

RE: Use of Public Funds for School Levy Campaign

Dear Superintendent Muratori, Treasurer Drewyor and Board President Ward:

The Ohio Auditor of State has been advised that Huron City School District may have inappropriately engaged in campaign practices in violation of Ohio law and may be continuing to do so in support of a district tax levy on the primary election ballot of May 4, 2021.

Information we have been provided suggests that District officials and staff have been conducting pro-levy activities during business hours, filming pro-levy videos during business hours, using district emails and email distribution lists, and making references to the pro-levy committee's social media platforms in a district newsletter, and using the District social media accounts to promote the pro-levy committee.

This appears to be conduct which appears to support the levy and which is intended to influence the outcome of the upcoming election. We understand that the above described conduct and dissemination of information by the district to voters through these various platforms and email systems are maintained and paid for with district funds.

R.C. 3315.07(C)(1) provides, in pertinent part, that "no board of education shall use public funds to support or oppose the passage of a school levy or bond issue or to compensate any school district employee for time spent on any activity intended to influence the outcome of a school levy or bond issue election."

Accordingly, I am writing to advise you of AOS knowledge of the alleged campaign practices and to call your attention to the statutory provision above. We have not confirmed the accuracy of these allegations. Please be aware that if they are true, the activity needs to cease and desist immediately; we request that you take immediate steps to examine these and any ongoing practices and ensure all activities of District personnel are in full compliance with Ohio law.

All information relative to this matter is being forwarded to AOS regional staff for review in the next regular audit of the District. If you or your legal counsel have any questions, or if you would like to discuss this matter further, please, do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

KEITH FABER

Auditor of State

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert R. Hinkle". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R".

Robert R. Hinkle, CPA, CGFM
Chief Deputy Auditor