

Not a New Tax

Kanawha County voters this May will be asked to renew the Safety Levy. This is not a new tax, but a renewal of the levy supporting local ambulance, bus and emergency services that was first passed in 1973.

The renewed levy will continue to provide reliable fire protection, emergency medical and public transportation services throughout Kanawha County.

Service highlights include:

Kanawha Co. Sheriff's Department

2018-2021

- 2,176 felony arrests
- 7,395 misdemeanor arrests
- \$1.9 million in cash seized
- \$1.6 million in seized drugs (street value)

Kanawha Co. Emergency Ambulance Authority

2021

- Almost 52,000 calls for service
- 57 licensed ambulances in 13 locations
- 27 ambulances on the road during peak times
- 1 call about every 10 minutes, all day and all year

Charleston Fire Department Ambulance Unit

2021

- Almost 14,000 calls for service
- 9,455 patients transported
- Five full-time Advanced Life Support ambulances

Kanawha Valley Regional Transportation Authority (KRT)

2021

- 1.7 million passengers each year
- 20 routes throughout Kanawha County
- Manages a countywide fuel management program providing low fuel prices as a result of bulk purchasing to more than 50 local nonprofit groups, county agencies, Kanawha County municipalities and Yeager Airport
- Manages the KRT Evacuation Team, a group of volunteers trained to evacuate citizens to a safe location in the event of an emergency
- Without the Safety Levy, KRT will not be eligible to receive federal or state grants

Vote "FOR" the Safety Levy May 10!

EARLY VOTING BEGINS APRIL 27.

CONTINUE THE EXISTING LEVY!

Supported by Kanawha County voters for over 45 years.

The average Kanawha County homeowner will pay about 21 cents a day for fire protection, emergency medical and public transportation services.

Ask Yourself...

If you are in danger and call 911, is the rapid response worth 21 cents a day?

"Keeping a quality transit and emergency response system is critical to our quality of life and economic vitality. The Safety Levy invests in the maintenance of the KRT, which transports people to work, school, local attractions and health care facilities and reaches into every area of life – from public health to economic development. The levy also gives us an important opportunity to maintain the level of service provided by our law enforcement and emergency responders, even as the number of incidents increase."

– W. Kent Carper,
Kanawha County Commission President

PAID FOR BY THE CHARLESTON REGIONAL
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.



THIS IS NOT A NEW TAX!
CONTINUE THE EXISTING LEVY!

SUPPORTS



SUPPORTED BY



What is the Safety Levy?

The Safety Levy supports fire protection, emergency medical and public transportation services throughout Kanawha County. Kanawha County voters have supported the levy for 45 years, originally passing the measure in 1973. It was last renewed in 2018.

The May 10 ballot includes the Safety Levy renewal, which is a five-year continuation of the existing levy and requires 60 percent approval to pass. **IT IS NOT A NEW TAX.**

What does the Safety Levy fund?

The levy provides:

- 56 percent of the City of Charleston Fire Department Ambulance Unit budget
- 32 percent of the Kanawha County Emergency Ambulance Authority budget
- 64 percent of the Kanawha Valley Regional Transit Authority budget
- Annual funding for local transit, fire and police departments

What services are supported by the Safety Levy?

The Safety Levy allows Kanawha County to collect \$17.8M annually. The levy currently provides:

- \$8.2 million for combined ambulance services
- \$8.2 million for 20 county bus routes throughout Kanawha County
- \$1.4 million for local fire and police departments

What happens if the Safety Levy fails?

Without the renewal of the Safety Levy, budgets for Kanawha County fire protection, emergency medical and public transportation services will be cut, response times will be longer and lives will be impacted.

Failure of the levy to pass would dramatically affect all services and would result in:

- Loss of bus service
- Reduced transportation for the disabled
- Additional response time for well-being checks and vehicle accidents
- Reduced services to rural areas
- Longer response time for 911 calls • Higher ambulance fees

How is the Safety Levy allocated?

The levy aims to take care of the basics while also investing in the future with funding for equipment and training for emergency services organizations.

A Public Safety Grant Committee monitors levy expenses and revenues, reviews program and project priorities and makes recommendations to the Kanawha County Commission on how to allocate levy proceeds.

Public Safety grants are awarded annually to fund specific projects and equipment upgrades for local fire protection, emergency medical services, law enforcement and public transportation units.

The levy has provided funding for drug enforcement prevention efforts, bulletproof vests, emergency radios, digital fingerprinting imaging, swift water rescue equipment, fire hydrants, GPS monitoring systems, self-contained breathing apparatuses, fire alarm systems, traffic safety vests and emergency alert systems.

Public Safety Levy Grant Allocation Funding History

July 1, 2004 - January 30, 2022

METRO 911	\$ 1,754,921.00
KANAWHA COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT	\$ 5,421,874.04
YEAGER AIRPORT POLICE	\$ 208,458.00
KANAWHA COUNTY PARKS POLICE DEPARTMENT	\$ 128,349.00
ALUM CREEK VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT	\$ 29,829.00
BELLE POLICE DEPARTMENT	\$ 112,067.00
BELLE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT	\$ 180,654.00
CABIN CREEK VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT	\$ 94,052.00
CEDAR GROVE POLICE DEPARTMENT	\$ 91,126.00
CEDAR GROVE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT	\$ 142,751.00
CHARLESTON FIRE DEPARTMENT	\$ 362,521.00
CHARLESTON POLICE DEPARTMENT	\$ 113,552.00
CHESAPEAKE POLICE DEPARTMENT	\$ 63,105.00
CHESAPEAKE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT	\$ 100,516.00
CLDENENIN POLICE DEPARTMENT	\$ 100,234.00
CLDENENIN VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT	\$ 242,514.00
DAVIS CREEK VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT	\$ 120,224.00
DUNBAR POLICE DEPARTMENT	\$ 309,968.00
DUNBAR FIRE DEPARTMENT	\$ 183,422.00
EAST BANK POLICE DEPARTMENT	\$ 41,049.00
EAST BANK VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT	\$ 131,581.00
FRAME VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT	\$ 57,126.00
GLASGOW POLICE DEPARTMENT	\$ 90,817.00
GLASGOW VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT	\$ 165,310.00
HANDLEY POLICE DEPARTMENT	\$ 33,973.00
HANDLEY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT	\$ 83,719.00
INSTITUTE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT	\$ 159,075.00
JEFFERSON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT	\$ 146,424.00
LAKEWOOD VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT	\$ 101,927.00
LOUDENDALE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT	\$ 123,317.00
MALDEN VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT	\$ 178,348.00
MARMET POLICE DEPARTMENT	\$ 104,145.00
MARMET VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT	\$ 176,351.00
MONTGOMERY POLICE DEPARTMENT	\$ 91,530.00
MONTGOMERY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT	\$ 178,451.00
NITRO POLICE DEPARTMENT	\$ 291,305.00
NITRO FIRE DEPARTMENT	\$ 235,346.00
PINCH VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT	\$ 198,111.00
PRATT POLICE DEPARTMENT	\$ 77,821.00
PRATT VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT	\$ 156,663.00
RAND VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT	\$ 127,568.00
SMITHERS VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT	\$ 30,428.00
SISSONVILLE VOLUNTEER DEPARTMENT	\$ 154,311.00
SOUTH CHARLESTON POLICE DEPARTMENT	\$ 504,808.00
SOUTH CHARLESTON FIRE DEPARTMENT	\$ 213,095.00
ST. ALBANS POLICE DEPARTMENT	\$ 261,672.00
ST. ALBANS FIRE DEPARTMENT	\$ 135,667.00
ST. ALBANS WEST SIDE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT	\$ 219,163.00
TORNADO VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT	\$ 123,744.00
TYLER MOUNTAIN VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT	\$ 183,083.00
ALT. PSAP COURTHOUSE	\$ 259,649.00
CARRY OVER OTHER	\$ 3,413.00
CARRY OVER PD'S	\$ 8,331.00
CARRY OVER VFD'S	\$ 25,000.00
DONNIE ADKINS MEMORIAL TRAINING	\$ 46,134.00
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT	\$ 311,297.00
EMERGENCY SERVICES FIRE COORDINATOR	\$ 74,821.00
EMERGENCY SERVICES SMOKE ALARMS	\$ 82,162.00
FIRE MDT PROJECTS	\$ 32,589.00
FIRE RADIO PROJECTS	\$ 182,958.00
HEAT	\$ 273,802.00
KANAWHA COUNTY COMMISSION	\$ 53,583.00
KANAWHA COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES	\$ 113,281.00
KCC PLANNING	\$ 28,166.00
KCC SIREN PROJECT	\$ 274,326.00
KCEAA	\$ 1,068,472.00
KCHD BOMB SQUAD	\$ 34,832.00
KCHD COUNTY WIDE MDT'S	\$ 489,443.00
KCHD COVID PSA'S	\$ 50,000.00
KCHD INTERNET CONNECTION FEES	\$ 322,324.00
KCHD OPERATION PROM/GRADUATION	\$ 133,961.00
KCHD SWAT	\$ 35,337.00
LED/HOME CONFINEMENT	\$ 40,500.00
LIFE SAFE	\$ 10,441.00
METRO DRUG UNIT	\$ 210,000.00
NITRO TIRE FIRE	\$ 67,793.00
SAFETY VESTS LED & VFD'S	\$ 60,748.00
SHAWNEE SPORTS COMPLEX	\$ 53,694.00
TOWER MAINTENANCE	\$ 1,062,261.00
WV DEPT OF NATURAL RESOURCES	\$ 5,259.00
WV DIVISION OF PROTECTIVE SERVICES	\$ 12,154.00
WV PUBLIC SAFETY EXPO	\$ 310,606.00
WV STATE POLICE	\$ 97,332.00
YEAGER AIRPORT FIRE DEPARTMENT	\$ 14,811.00