

## **Why the Spring, 2009, “Blue Ribbon Report” Should Be Regarded As “Campaign Material”**

**A. The purpose of the Spring “Blue Ribbon Report,” as seen in its content, is a one sided effort to persuade voters to support the 6.9 mill renewal levy. The “Report” says:**

- ◊ “Passage of Issue 12 will mean a ZERO increase in Taxes for Kettering residents.”
- ◊ The consequences of losing this levy would be grave ... the district would be forced to make massive reductions
- ◊ Because this is a renewal levy, there will be absolutely no increase in taxes as a result of this Renewal Issue (Dr. Mengerink’s words)

**B. The “Report” fails educate voters, fails to offer any information that might enlighten voters concerning important aspects of the 6.9 mill levy they are being asked to support:**

- ◊ The “Report” fails to report that the 6.9 mill approved in 2004 has a current effective rate of 6.16 mills, and that approval of a renewal means that over the five year period approved for the renewal, the effective rate could return to its originally approved rate of 6.9 mills
- ◊ The “Report” fails to report that, by agreeing to the renewal, voters are agreeing to a potential increase in this levy of 12%. (from 6.16 mills to 6.9 mills)
- ◊ The “Report” fails to report that, because of decreases in Kettering’s tax base, the rate for this 6.9 mill levy increased .03 mills from last year to this year, from 6.13 mills to 6.16 mills, an increase of 3 cents per \$1000
- ◊ The Report fails to report that the county auditor’s office is predicting that, because of further decreases in Kettering’s tax base, this fall an additional increase in the current effective rate of 6.16 mills for this levy will be announced.

**C. The “Report,” I believe, was part of a coordinated district wide effort, organized by the “Citizens for Kettering” committee, to persuade Kettering voters to support the 6.9 mill Renewal Levy.**

- ◊ I believe subpoenaed testimony would reveal that “Citizens for Kettering” counted on the Spring, 2009, “Blue Ribbon Report” as an important part of their overall strategy to get voter approval for the 6.9 mill renewal levy.
- ◊ I believe subpoenaed testimony would reveal that the timing and content of the Spring, 2009, “Blue Ribbon Report” was discussed and “brainstormed” during “Citizens for Kettering” meetings.