

News Release – For Immediate Use – September 30, 2023

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Aggregation Issues on the November 7th Ballot

The upcoming General Election Ballot in Licking County will include aggregation issues in one city, five villages and 21 townships for voters to consider. All other cities, villages and townships in Licking County already have approved aggregation.

Voters in the City of Pataskala; the Villages of Buckeye Lake, Hebron, Kirkersville, Hartford and Utica; and these townships - Bennington, Bowling Green, Burlington, Eden, Fallsbury, Franklin, Hanover, Hartford, Hopewell, Jersey, Liberty, Licking, Madison, Mary Ann, McKean, Monroe, Newark, Newton, Perry, St. Albans and Washington – will decide whether or not to authorization aggregation, which is the opportunity to save money on electric and natural utility costs.

Simply stated, aggregation is a community/voter option to adopt group or wholesale purchasing of electric (kilowatts) and natural gas (cubic feet). The goal of aggregation, which is permitted statewide, is to 'save' residents money by group purchasing of energy on a large scale in combined community groups.

Leaders in these communities opted to seek aggregation to benefit their residents, and join a number of communities in Licking County already aggregating or saving fuel costs on their energy bills. A typical household historically can save \$100 or more per year in aggregation. It should be noted that small businesses benefit as well.

Note – any resident can opt out of aggregation with no fee at any time. All AEP and Columbia Gas customers would be automatically enrolled unless already in a third party energy purchasing agreement. Energy Cooperative customers are not affected as they are not eligible to participate (energy cooperatives already have the ability to purchase energy in the market). However, Coop members are eligible to vote on the aggregation issues to potentially benefit others through the aggregation process. ###