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### **Toledo Zoo To Seek Levy Renewal on November Ballot**

Toledo, OH — Lucas County voters will have an opportunity to show their support for the Toledo Zoo this fall when the current levy, at .85 mills, goes up for renewal.

The Lucas County Citizens Review Committee recommended the Zoo's levy proposal to the Lucas County Commissioners, who today unanimously approved the request to add the proposal to the November ballot. This fall, voters will have the opportunity to renew the operating levy which helps pay for day-to-day expenses, such as food for the animals, veterinary care, utilities and maintenance. The impact of the levy on a person who owns a home assessed at \$100,000 will be \$2.16 per month – a renewal of the current level of support. This is not a new tax.

Every \$1 of tax money the Zoo receives generates more than \$6.50 to the region's economy, and the Zoo brings \$38 million to the region each year.

“Even beyond these financial benefits, however, the Toledo Zoo provides a great deal of service to the community, from our educational programming to our efforts to preserve endangered species,” Dr. Anne Baker, Toledo Zoo Executive Director, said. More than 105,000 Lucas County schoolchildren have experienced the Zoo at no cost over the past four years of the current levy, and nearly 250,000 Lucas County residents have been admitted to the Zoo for free on Mondays from 10 a.m. to noon. Renewing the levy is essential to maintaining an affordable level and quality of services that residents have come to expect from the Zoo.

Even with an approved levy, rising costs will require increased Zoo admission and membership fees next year. “However, in recognition of Lucas County residents' historic levy support of the Zoo, they will pay lower admission fees than non-Lucas County residents,” Dr. Baker said, “and we will continue to offer free Mondays from 10 a.m. to noon and two free appreciation weekends.”

*The Toledo Zoo is committed to inspiring others to join in caring for animals and conserving the natural world. As part of that mission, The Toledo Zoo is accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA), a leader in global wildlife conservation. AZA member institutions are dedicated to providing excellent care for animals, a great experience for visitors and a better future for all living things.*

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