



Council on Aging of Southwestern Ohio
175 Tri County Parkway
Cincinnati, Ohio 45246
(513) 721-1025
(800) 252-0155
www.help4seniors.org

To the editor of the Journal News:

For the sake of Butler County's seniors, it's unfortunate that misinformation continues to circulate about the senior services levy surplus. People need the opportunity to base their opinions on facts.

The most recent article ("Debate mounts in levy surplus talks" – Aug. 25) contained two misleading points. The article stated that surplus funds are in the "coffers" of Council on Aging. This is not true. COA does not have the surplus funds. The funds are in the county treasury. The county reimburses COA for actual expenses after services have been delivered.

The article also states that enrollment in the Elderly Services Program was "flat" after the levy's approval. This is not accurate. The fact is, in the first year following passage of the levy, the program grew, but enrollment was nevertheless below projections. This was largely due to fewer people enrolling from the waiting list than had been anticipated. Since the levy passed in Nov. 2005, enrollment has increased by an unprecedented 46 percent.

For 12 years, Butler County's Elderly Services Program has made a major difference in quality of life for thousands of disabled seniors. It's only fair to judge the program on complete and factual information.

Laurie Petrie
Communications Director
Council on Aging of Southwestern Ohio