

Newark Advocate.

LOCAL

Voters soundly reject dissolution of Alexandria



Maria DeVito

Newark Advocate

Published 10:47 p.m. ET May 8, 2018 | Updated 2:07 p.m. ET May 9, 2018

ALEXANDRIA - The village of Alexandria is here to stay.

Voters in the tiny western Licking County village emphatically rejected a ballot issue that would have dissolved the village government.

More than 92 percent of voters objected to the dissolution of the village. Only 17 voters supported the measure, according to unofficial election results from the Licking County Board of Elections.

Mayor Jim Jasper said he was "very pleased to put it mildly."

Jasper said the issue, which was first brought up more than a year ago, is now behind the village.

"It is done and over, we'll move forward," he said. "All of our boards are full, our police department is about ready to roll, we're going to get busy, start doing good things."

If voters had decided to dissolve Alexandria, the area would have become an unincorporated area in St. Albans Township.

Jasper previously said he expected the village to survive the vote, as residents are finally beginning to feel better about a village that has endured its former treasurer sent to prison for theft in office, village records declared "unauditable" by the state, seven mayors in seven years, and continual turnover in village offices and on village council.

Dissolution would have saved village taxpayers \$59 annually in property taxes, per \$100,000 of assessed valuation, based on tax year 2017, according to the Licking County Auditor's Office. But, village taxpayers, not those in the township, would have still been responsible for any remaining village debt.

mdevito@gannett.com

740-328-8513

Twitter: @MariaDeVito13