



**PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
STATEMENT REGARDING THE PROPOSED WEST BROAD ST.
JEDZ AND CEDA
SEPTEMBER 28, 2011**

This November 8th the Prairie Township Board of Trustees is asking township residents to decide whether or not to create a Joint Economic Development Zone, or JEDZ (Issue 10).

The JEDZ is a way for institutions such as hospitals and schools, as well as businesses, in the West Broad Street commercial area to help Prairie Township residents pay the bills. Many (likely a large majority) employees in the West Broad commercial area already pay taxes to the Central Ohio cities where they live. The JEDZ would redirect the lion's share of this money so that it contributes toward controlling Prairie Township residents' taxes. In the meantime, these funds would also allow the Township to maintain and even improve vital local services that are threatened by state cuts and the economic downturn.

State law allows Prairie Township to create a JEDZ by partnering with a city or village. Prairie Township and the Village of Obetz have worked together to draft a JEDZ agreement, as well as a proposed cooperative economic development agreement (CEDA). The JEDZ agreement would create the zone itself. The CEDA would provide a way for Obetz, which must collect the income taxes according to State law, to channel Prairie Township's share back to us.

The Prairie Township Board of Trustees urges the voters of Prairie Township to support the CEDA agreement and vote for the joint economic development zone (JEDZ) / Issue 10 agreement at the ballot on November 8th. These agreements will allow us to control taxes for township residents, while working to make this community an even better place.

Reasons to vote for Issue 10 (JEDZ):

- To control taxes paid by Prairie Township residents and homeowners.
- To maintain and improve law enforcement, reconstruct and improve West Broad Street, eliminate and redevelop blighted property and build a high-quality community center.
- To maintain road improvement funding, zoning and nuisance funding and the senior center.

Why the Village of Obetz:

- Obetz is able and willing to move quickly in working with Prairie Township, as required by law, to implement this project.
- Obetz is a community with proven economic development abilities that does not compete with Prairie Township either geographically or in terms of the types of businesses it recruits.
- Because of this, Obetz is in a position to cooperate with Prairie in marketing the West Broad Street commercial area for development / redevelopment projects.

If you have questions or comments about this issue please call:
Tracy Hatmaker, Prairie Township Administrator @ 614.878.3317 (x114)