

## Operating Millage Renewal

On Tuesday, May 7, 2019, voters in Mason Public Schools will be asked to vote on the renewal of the 18 mill non-homestead property tax millage.

This is not a tax paid by homeowners on their primary residences. It is a tax only paid on property that is not a primary residence such as businesses, industrial, commercial, rental property and second homes. It is a renewal of the non-homestead property tax last approved by the voters in 2010.

To receive the full State Foundation Grant funding, schools must levy 18 mills on non-homestead properties. This is not a new tax, it represents a renewal of millage that will expire with the 2019 levy and a restoration of millage lost because of the reduction required by the "Headlee" amendment. This amendment limits increases to the rate of inflation and automatically "rolls back" the tax millage rate. One mill represents \$1 for every \$1,000 of taxable value on property.

Without the non-homestead millage renewal, all of the District's operating millage would be reduced to zero when the current authorization expires with the 2019 levy. The 18 mills is projected to provide \$3,500,000 of tax revenues. Approval of the millage will give the district the continued ability to collect the full State funding for our schools.

## Ballot Language

### MASON PUBLIC SCHOOLS OPERATING MILLAGE PROPOSAL

This proposal will allow the school district to continue to levy the statutory rate of not to exceed 18 mills on all property, except principal residence and other property exempted by law, required for the school district to receive its full revenue per pupil foundation allowance and restores millage lost as a result of the reduction required by the Michigan Constitution of 1963.

Shall the currently authorized millage rate limitation on the amount of taxes which may be assessed against all property, except principal residence and other property exempted by law, in Mason Public Schools, Ingham County, Michigan, be renewed by 17.9388 mills (\$17.9388 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation) for a period of 10 years, 2020 to 2029, inclusive, and also be increased by 0.0612 mill (\$0.0612 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation) for a period of 10 years, 2020 to 2029, inclusive, to provide funds for operating purposes; the estimate of the revenue the school district will collect if the millage is approved and 18 mills are levied in 2020 is approximately \$3,500,000 (this is a renewal of millage that will expire with the 2019 levy and a restoration of millage lost as a result of the reduction required by the "Headlee" amendment to the Michigan Constitution of 1963)?



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## Operating Millage Renewal Election

*Vote on May 7, 2019*



## Frequently Asked Questions About the Operating Millage Renewal



### A YES Vote...

- No increase in homeowner taxes
- Renews approximately \$3,500,000 of operational funds used to provide educational programming for our students
- Provides funds for teachers, support staff, materials, maintenance, and transportation

### A NO Vote...

- No reduction in homeowner taxes operating dollars - money used to fund programs and staffing for students

### What is an “operating millage?”

It is NOT a tax on homeowners. It is known as a “non-homestead operating tax” since primary residences are exempt from the tax. School districts must levy a local property tax of 18 mills on non-homestead property – industrial, commercial, business, rental, and second homes – in order for the district to receive its full per-pupil funding from the State of Michigan. This operating millage helps fund the day-to-day expenses of Mason Public Schools.

### Is this a new tax?

No. This proposal is a renewal of the non-homestead property tax last approved by the voters in 2010. The term of the renewal is ten (10) years, which is the same as the expiring 18 mill operating tax levy passed in 2010.

### Will my home property taxes go up if this passes?

No. There will be no change to your home property tax rate. Homeowners don’t pay this tax and businesses will simply continue to pay a tax they’ve already been paying.

### What is a “mill?”

A mill is \$1 for every \$1,000 of taxable valuation on property.

The ballot language contains an increase of 0.0612 mills (\$0.0612 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation) for a period of 10 years. Why?

The increase is a restoration of millage lost because of the reduction required by the “Headlee” amendment. This amendment limits increases to the rate of inflation and automatically “rolls back” the tax millage rate.

### Will my home property taxes go down if this is defeated?

No. Your home property tax rate will remain the same. However, without the non-homestead millage renewal, all of the District’s operating millage would be reduced to zero when the current authorization expires with the 2019 levy. The 18 mills is projected to provide \$3,500,000 of tax revenues. Approval of the millage will give the district the continued ability to collect the full State funding for our schools.

### Where do I vote?

Voting takes place at the same location as national and state elections.

### When will the election take place?

The election is Tuesday, May 7, 2019. Polls are open from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m.