



**WEST BLOOMFIELD  
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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**Frequently Asked Questions  
West Bloomfield School District  
May 4, 2021, Operating Millage Proposal**

**When is the election?**

The election is Tuesday, May 4, 2021. The polls will be open from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m. Absentee ballots will be available after March 20th and can be cast through Election Day.

**What is on the ballot?**

Registered voters residing within the boundaries of the West Bloomfield School District (WBSD) will vote on a 2.0 mill, 4-year non-homestead operating millage proposal.

**What is the purpose of this election?**

The State of Michigan requires school districts to levy 18 mills on non-homestead property to receive their full share of State Aid funding.

The 18-mill non-homestead millage approved by West Bloomfield voters in 2014 has been “rolled back” per requirements of the Headlee Amendment to the Michigan Constitution. These rollbacks of the 18-mill non-homestead millage began shortly after voters approved the original proposal in 2014. The result has been operating revenue losses totaling more than \$1.3 million over the past six years for the West Bloomfield School District.

The May 4th millage proposal will allow the school district to levy the statutory rate of not to exceed 18 mills on non-homestead property. Voter approval of the ballot proposal will restore the rolled back millage from the current levy of 16.9544 mills to the full 18 mills, and protect the school district from future rollbacks.

**Who is affected by the May 4th millage proposal?**

The May 4th millage proposal applies to non-homestead properties (commercial, business, rental properties, vacant land, and second homes). This millage proposal does not apply to primary residences (the homes in which taxpayers live). It will not affect the tax rate levied on primary residences.

**How is revenue from a non-homestead millage used?**

Non-homestead millage is used to finance the day-to-day operating expenditures of the school district.

Levying the statutory 18-mill limit on non-homestead properties generates approximately \$8.2 million or about 12 percent of the West Bloomfield School District’s operating budget.

**Will the restoration of the 18-mill non-homestead millage affect the educational program of the West Bloomfield School District?**

Yes. Voter approval of the May 4th operating millage proposal will enable the school district to levy the 18-mill statutory limit on non-homestead properties, eliminate related reductions in the operating budget, and allow the school district to collect its full share of State Aid funding.

**What will appear on the May 4th ballot?**

Here is the ballot wording:

WEST BLOOMFIELD SCHOOL  
DISTRICT OPERATING  
MILLAGE PROPOSAL

This proposal will allow the school district 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 revenue per pupil foundation allowance.

Shall the limitation on the amount of taxes which may be assessed against all property, except principal residence and other property exempted by law, in West Bloomfield School District, Oakland County, Michigan, be increased by 2 mills (\$2.00 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation) for a period of 4 years, 2021 to 2024, inclusive, to provide funds for operating purposes; the estimate of the revenue the school district will collect if the millage is approved and levied in 2021 is approximately \$691,139 (this millage is to restore millage lost as a result of the reduction required by the Michigan Constitution of 1963 and will be levied only to the extent necessary to restore that reduction)?

**What will happen if the May 4th operating millage proposal is not approved by voters?**

If the May 4th ballot proposal is not approved by voters, the school district will lose more than \$691,000 from its operational budget annually. Since the State Aid calculation assumes all school districts in Michigan will levy the full 18 mills on non-homestead properties, the school district's State Aid will be reduced annually by more than \$128 per student (or approximately \$691,000) if the operating millage proposal is not approved by voters on May 4th. Hence, maintaining a balanced budget as required by Michigan law would likely result in significant reductions in educational programs and services if the May 4th operating millage proposal is not approved by voters.

**Who can vote in this election?**

Residents of the West Bloomfield School District who will be 18 years of age or older on Election Day and are registered to vote can vote on the May 4th operating millage proposal.

**Where can I get information about voting (such as how to register, where to vote, and absentee voting)?**

Go to the Michigan Voter Information website ([www.michigan.gov/vote](http://www.michigan.gov/vote)) or call the Clerk's Office where you reside.

**Do I need to update my voter registration?**

If you have changed your name or address since the last time you voted, you need to update your voter registration. Residents can do this at any Secretary of State Office or at the Clerk's Office where they reside.

**Can I vote by absentee ballot?**

Yes. Since voter approval of Proposal 3 in November 2018, registered voters do not need a reason to vote by absentee ballot. Voters who have COVID-related concerns or believe that going to the polls on Election Day will be inconvenient now have the option of casting an absentee ballot.

Local Clerks will mail absentee ballot applications to voters who are on

their permanent absentee voter list. Voters who are not on their local Clerk's permanent absentee voter list can get an absentee ballot application by calling the Clerk's Office where they reside or by going online to [www.michigan.gov/vote](http://www.michigan.gov/vote) and clicking on *Absentee Voting* in the left column.

Absentee ballots will be available after March 20th and will be mailed to those who complete an absentee ballot application.

**To get more information about the May 4th operating millage proposal and answers to your questions...**

Go to [www.wbsd.org/elections](http://www.wbsd.org/elections), call any West Bloomfield School District Principal or contact Assistant Superintendent Kyle Anderson at 248/865-6434 or by email at [elections@wbsd.org](mailto:elections@wbsd.org).

**This document was prepared to provide factual information about the West Bloomfield School District's May 4th Operating Millage Proposal and was paid for by the West Bloomfield School District, 5810 Commerce Road, West Bloomfield, MI 48324**