



**OPEN LETTER TO WEST BLOOMFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT VOTERS
FROM SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT GERALD HILL**

The West Bloomfield School District will have a 2.0 mill operating millage proposal on the May 4th ballot.

While all registered voters can vote on this operating millage proposal, the millage only applies to “non-homesteads” (mainly businesses, rental properties, vacant land, and second homes). If your primary residence is in the West Bloomfield School District, the operating millage proposal will not affect the property taxes on your home. It will have no impact on your tax rate—none!

Here’s why you should vote

The operating millage proposal, if approved, will restore the non-homestead millage rate to the 18-mill limit last approved by West Bloomfield voters in 2014. If the May 4th millage proposal is not approved, the school district will continue to lose more than \$128 per student (about \$691,000) in operating revenue every year. It is likely this loss will ultimately lead to reductions in programs for students and services to the community.

Basic Facts Every Voter Should Know

- Every registered voter living in the West Bloomfield School District can vote in this election by absentee ballot or at the polls.
- The May 4th ballot proposal, if approved by voters, will restore the non-homestead tax rate to 18 mills. The 18-mill non-homestead millage generates \$8.2 million or about 12 percent of the school district’s operating budget.
- This ballot proposal does not apply to homeowners whose primary residence is located in the West Bloomfield School District. It applies to non-homestead properties (mainly businesses, rental properties, vacant land, and second homes).
- If approved by voters, the May 4th operating millage proposal will allow the school district to levy the number of operating mills required to receive revenue at the full per pupil allowance permitted by the State of Michigan. In short, the State of Michigan requires school districts to levy this millage to ensure full State Aid funding.

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- The four-year ballot proposal calls for an increase of 2.0 mills on non-homestead property, with 18 mills being the maximum allowable levy. (In general terms, this is a restoration of the 18 mills last approved by voters in 2014.)
- If you have COVID-related concerns or believe that going to the polls on Election Day will be inconvenient, you have the option of casting an absentee ballot.
- Absentee ballots will be available after March 20th. Any registered voter can cast an absentee ballot through Election Day, May 4th.
- Local Clerks will mail an absentee ballot application to voters 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 online at www.michigan.gov/vote.

Again, if voters approve the May 4th ballot proposal, there will be no change in the current property tax rate for residents whose primary residence is in the West Bloomfield School District. **This millage will not affect taxes on the home in which you live.**

In all school elections, every vote is important. That is certainly the case on May 4th. Please plan to vote at the polls on May 4th between 7 am and 8 pm or any time after March 20th by absentee ballot.

If you have questions or need more information, please go to 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.

Thank you.



Gerald Hill, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools