

MIDLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

MAY 7, 2024
Operating Millage
Renewal Proposal
Frequently Asked Questions



Quick Facts about the election

No change to current tax rates

- The May 7th proposal has two parts: renewal of the 18 mill non-homestead operating millage and renewal of the 5.6523 hold harmless millage.
- All Michigan school districts are required to levy a non-homestead operating millage of 18 mills to receive their full foundation allowance.
- The non-homestead operating millage will have no effect on a homeowner's primary residence (the home in which a Midland homeowner lives). It is levied on businesses, second homes, vacant properties, and rental properties.
- The hold harmless millage was first approved by Midland voters in 1994 with the approval of Proposal A.
- The hold harmless millage supports the operational budget for Midland Public Schools.
- If these millages are not renewed by Midland voters, the school district will lose \$20.2 million in operating revenue. This will necessitate substantial reductions in the educational program.
- All registered voters living in the Midland Public Schools can vote on this proposal at the polls on May 7 (or by absentee ballot beginning March 28).
- For more information and continuing updates, go to <https://www.midlandps.org> and click on Operating Millage Proposal.

When is the election?

The election will be held on Tuesday, May 7, 2024. The polls are open from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m. Absentee ballots are available after March 28, 2024.



What is on the ballot?

A ten-year, operating millage proposal that has two parts: renewal of the 18 mill non-homestead millage and renewal of the 5.6523 hold harmless millage.

What is an operating millage?

An operating millage generates revenue to support the operating budget. The operating budget funds essential day-to-day expenses such as salaries, utilities, and all educational programs.

What will be the cost to a homeowner who lives in Midland Public Schools?

The proposal is a renewal of the non-homestead and hold harmless millages. There will not be an increase to the current tax rate.

What types of property is the non-homestead operating millage levied on?

The operating millage is **not levied on primary residences** (the home in which a homeowner lives); it **only applies to businesses, second homes, vacant land, and rental property**. All school districts in Michigan must levy 18 mills on non-homestead property to receive their full share of state aid (i.e., foundation allowance).



Businesses



Second homes



Rental property



Midland Public Schools

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If the non-homestead operating millage does not apply to taxpayers who live in their primary residence, why can all registered voters living in Midland Public Schools vote on this proposal?

All registered voters living in Midland Public Schools can vote on the non-homestead operating millage proposal because it is a school district millage. School district millages are funded by property taxes, but they are not limited to property owners. It is also the way the law was written when it was established in 1994.



What types of property is the hold harmless millage levied on?

The hold harmless millage is levied on primary residences, qualified agricultural property, qualified forest property, supportive housing property, public school academy property, industrial personal property, and commercial personal property.

Why does Midland Public Schools levy a hold harmless millage?

The hold harmless millage was established in 1994 with the passage of Proposal A. This unique millage option was made available to school districts where communities were already contributing a higher operational amount per student than mandated by Proposal A. To maintain the high-level educational program offered by Midland Public Schools, residents approved the hold harmless millage. While revenue from this millage has gradually declined due to adjustments in the school funding formula, its renewal is an important part of the school district's operational budget.

How much revenue will the operating millage generate?

The non-homestead operating millage generates approximately \$19.6 million annually, and the hold harmless generates approximately \$904,142 annually. Together they generate approximately \$20.2 million annually. This is 18.6% of the school district's operating budget, which is equivalent to 57% of our teaching staff salaries.



What is the exact language of the operating millage renewal proposal?
Here is the ballot wording for the operating millage renewal proposal:

**MIDLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS
OPERATING MILLAGE RENEWAL PROPOSAL**

This proposal will allow the school district to maintain the number of mills required to be levied for the school district to receive its revenue per pupil foundation allowance and renews millage that will expire with the 2024 tax levy.

Shall the currently authorized millage rate limitation of 18 mills (\$18.00 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation) on the amount of taxes which may be assessed against all property, except principal residence and other property exempted by law, and 5.6523 mills (\$5.6523 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation) against principal residences, qualified agricultural property, qualified forest property, supportive housing property, property occupied by a public school academy, industrial personal property and commercial personal property, in Midland Public Schools, Midland County, Michigan, be renewed for a period of 10 years, 2025 to 2034, inclusive, to provide funds for operating purposes; the estimate of the revenue the school district will collect from combined property taxes authorized herein if the millage is approved and levied in 2025 is approximately \$20,172,637 (this is a renewal of millage that will expire with the 2024 tax levy)?



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How will the proposals benefit residents who don't have school-age students?

There are numerous benefits for residents without school-age children. School district facilities and sites are regularly used by community members who do not have school-age children.

The Midland Public Schools Board of Education believes the school district is an important community resource and partner. They also believe the value and vitality of our community depend on the quality and marketability of our schools.

In addition, research shows that communities with good schools help to maintain local property values.

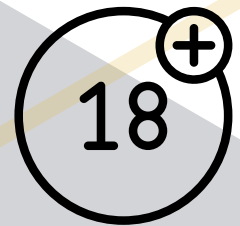


A YES vote typically means that a voter supports a ballot proposal. Is that the case in this election?

Yes. Voters who support the Midland Public Schools' operating millage renewal should vote YES; voters who oppose the operating millage renewal should vote NO.

Who can vote in the May 7th election?

Residents of Midland Public Schools who will be 18 years of age or older on Election Day and are registered to vote can vote in this election.



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, or call your local clerk's office.



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Do I need to update my voter registration?

You need to update your voter registration if you have changed your name or address since the last time you voted. You can do this at any Secretary of State Office or local clerk's office.

Can I vote by absentee ballot?

Yes. All registered voters can vote by absentee ballot in this election. You can request an absentee ballot application from your clerk's office or by going to www.michigan.gov/vote and clicking on Vote at home.

If you are on the permanent absentee voter list and received an absentee ballot application from your local clerk, you must return the application in order to receive your absentee ballot. If you are not on the permanent absentee voter list and would like to request an absentee ballot application, please call your local clerk.



Applicants will receive their absentee ballot in the mail. Absentee ballots will be available to voters after March 28 and can be cast through Election Day.



Where can I get more information about the operating millage proposal?

Go to www.midlandps.org and click on Operating Millage Proposal. Contact Interim Superintendent of Schools Penny Miller-Nelson by phone (989-923-5014) or email (millerpm@midlandps.org).

Can community members give feedback about the ballot proposal?

Yes. Members of the community are invited to participate in a brief survey about the proposal. Scan the QR code or visit www.research.net/r/midlandoperatingmillage.



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