School District Renewal

On the November 6, 2012 ballot, the Crawford AuSable School District has to have the non-homestead renewal question on the ballot. This is not a tax increase. One way or another, this renewal does **not** affect your home which serves as your primary resident or your homestead.

In 1994, Proposal A required all school districts in the State to periodically seek their local taxpayer’s approval to collect the 18 mill non-homestead tax. The last time that CASD asked the local voters to approve the renewal was for five years.

This current renewal is for six years though in order to meet State’s new election requirements. The State now requires school elections to be held in November. This is the reason the renewal is on this November’s ballot. Now the question is for six years to keep the school elections on even years. This renewal is for six years so that the next renewal would be in 2018. This allows the school elections to stay on even years.

Each community in the State is required to approve the non-homestead tax collection and everyone has approved it. This renewal is vital to the school operations. Approval of this renewal only allows the school to keep the same amount of funds. It does not give the school anymore funding. This renewal represents almost five million dollars of funding for the school or approximately 1/3 of the schools funding.

However, this does not increase or decrease the taxes on a person’s house which is their homestead property. Non-homestead is for vacant land, businesses, or 2nd homes. The State of Michigan requires each local school district to get approval from the local voters to collect the funds. The State will not make up the difference.

This school election is also to elect one board member for a six year term through 2018. Dave Malm was appointed to the CASD school board in August of this year and is the only candidate that is on the ballot. State election law dictates that school elections will be the last item on the ballot of this very long ballot. The school question will be on the backside of the ballot.