



Voters living within the Davison Community School district will be asked to renew the District's Non-Homestead and Building and Site Sinking Fund on the May 5, 2015, ballot.

## Frequently Asked Questions

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### **Will either of these renewals increase my taxes?**

**NO.** Both of these ballot questions are renewals. There is no new or additional tax.

### **Explain what the Non-Homestead levy is.**

The Non-Homestead levy does not affect homeowners/taxpayers with Davison as their primary residence. This renewal applies to businesses and second homes only. This levy generates about \$3.8 million for the district and is critical to the district's operational budget.

### **So, if I am a homeowner and the Non-Homestead levy does not affect me, why should I vote on it?**

Proposal A changed the way Michigan public schools are financed. Previously, local property taxes provided better than 60% of the revenues needed to fund public schools. The State did not levy property taxes for school purposes. When the Legislature adopted the foundation approach to funding education in December 1993, three important changes came about.

- Property taxes for school purposes were substantially reduced.
- Rather than millage rates being applied uniformly on all property, different rates are now applied to homestead and non-homestead property. Owner-occupied primary residences are classified as "homestead" property and are taxed at six mills. Non-homestead property generally includes industrial, commercial, and second homes, and is taxed at 24 mills (six mills base plus 18 mills, which requires voter approval).
- The State of Michigan assumes school districts levy and collect the full 18 mills, and subtracts this amount from each district's per pupil allowance if it is not collected. Under Proposal A, the state provides the majority of the funding to public schools by levying a uniform rate of six mills on all property, but **to receive full funding, local school districts must levy and collect locally 18 mills on Non-Homestead property in their district.**

### **What is the Building and Site Sinking Fund?**

Due to the community's continued support, facilities in Davison Community Schools have remained a priority for nearly two decades due to the Building and Site Sinking Fund. The Building and Site Sinking Fund generates about \$1 million each year to address facility needs such as the new upcoming tennis courts/soccer/marching band complex as well as replace outdated heating systems with more efficient and

cleaner heating and cooling systems, renovate buildings, replace roofs and install infrastructure for updated technology.

**What are some of the projects the Building and Site Sinking Fund has paid for?**

Classroom additions at Davison Middle School, Hahn Intermediate, Davison High School and Thomson Elementary; Renovations at most every school building including new windows and exterior doors, classroom ceiling and flooring, student restrooms, replacement of roofs and boilers; addition of heating and cooling systems, upgrades to technology and network infrastructure, water filtration systems for Gates and Siple which remain on wells; Alger Drive reconstruction; repairs to parking lots and the addition of a separate parking area and bus loop at Hill Elementary; repairs and upgrades to athletic facilities including Collins Field, addition of the GSRP preschool wing at Central Elementary and more. (For a detailed list, please see our website.) This year, the Building and Site Sinking Fund will pay for 10 new tennis courts and upgrades to the soccer fields and marching band practice field.

**What other projects would the district like to see completed with the Building and Site Sinking Fund.**

The district continually updates a Facilities Need list. Projects on tap include replacement of the Davison Middle School gym floor, addition of air conditioning at Gates, Siple and Thomson elementary buildings, expansion of parking and/or addition separate bus loop entrances at Gates, Siple and Hahn/Davison Middle School; heating system upgrade for Davison High School; an exterior facelift and aesthetic upgrades for Davison High School; bleacher repairs at Davison High School and Davison Middle School; asbestos removal at Davison High School and continued upgrades to technology and network infrastructure.

**I know this is only a renewal so there will be no new taxes but remind me as to how much a typical taxpayer pays for the Building and Site Sinking Fund.**

The Building and Site Sinking Fund is 1.4016 mills. That works out to be about \$70 or less a year for someone who owns a house valued at \$100,000.

**How long are the renewals for?**

Both renewals are for 10 years.

**What should I do if I have any questions?**

There are several resources on our website that you can view by clicking on the "May 5 Ballot Renewal Information" Quick Link found on the left side of our home page at [www.davisonschools.org](http://www.davisonschools.org). We also love to hear from our stakeholders! Feel free to send your questions or comments to Superintendent Eric Lieske at [elieske@davisonschools.org](mailto:elieske@davisonschools.org) or call his office at (810) 591-0801.