

Fowlerville Community Schools Non-Homestead Millage – Robo Calls

TO BE DELIVERED VIA ROBO CALL JULY 30TH

Hello, this is Wayne Roedel, Superintendent of Fowlerville Community Schools. On Tuesday, August 5<sup>th</sup>, registered voters within our District will be asked to consider the renewal of the 18 mill non-homestead millage request which Fowlerville voters previously approved in 2012. This is not a new tax but is a continuation of an existing tax. This millage does not apply to your home or primary residence. The 18 mill non-homestead levy generates approximately 2.3 million dollars that the District wisely spends on District operations. The State would not replace these dollars if the millage renewal does not pass. Please take time out of your busy schedule to vote on Tuesday, August 5<sup>th</sup>. Residents within our District vote at their normal polling place with polls open from 7AM until 8PM. Thank you and see you at the polls.

This message is paid for by Fowlerville Community Schools

7677 Sharpe Road, Suite A, Fowlerville, MI 48836

517-223-6001

TO BE DELIVERED VIA ROBO CALL AUGUST 5<sup>TH</sup> at 3:00 PM

Hello, this is Wayne Roedel, Superintendent of Fowlerville Community Schools. TODAY is Election Day. I want to thank you in advance for taking the time to vote on the Fowlerville Community School's Non-homestead ballot proposal. If you haven't voted yet, there is still time. Polls do not close until 8:00 PM.

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7677 Sharpe Road, Suite A, Fowlerville, MI 48836

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Vetted by Mike Gressens - Thru haw 7-2-14

Local Newspaper article - Not vetted by Thrun, though,  
I believe it to be compliant.

Dear Parents/Guardians and Community Members:

I hope this note finds all of you enjoying the summer months with your students at home. Hopefully, you can find time to enjoy a small vacation, venture up north, hang out at the beach or even attend the Fowlerville Family Fair at the end of this month. Regardless, the summer months can provide a needed time for your children to just play, read a good book for pleasure and recharge their batteries.

I would like to begin by providing you with some critical information as it pertains to our Non-Homestead Millage renewal.

**WHEN? TUESDAY, AUGUST 5<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

Voters within the Fowlerville Community School District will again be asked to renew the 18 mill non-homestead property tax levy.

**WHO DOES THE LEVY APPLY TO?**

This levy DOES NOT apply to owner-occupied primary residences, but generally, includes businesses, rental homes and commercial property.

**THE PROPOSAL**

The operating millage renewal proposal that will be on the August 5<sup>th</sup> ballot will ask voters to approve a single proposal that will raise approximately 2.3 million dollars to fully fund our schools. This is approximately 10% of our total yearly budget and is an essential portion of the State of Michigan's foundation grant formula for each district.

**IS THIS A NEW TAX?**

No! This is a continuation of the existing millage.

**WHAT IF THE MILLAGE IS NOT APPROVED?**

If this millage renewal does not pass, the State of Michigan will not replace the funding and Fowlerville Community Schools will be forced to reduce or cut programs to offset the loss.

**WHAT IS THE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF MILLS LEVIED?**

The operating millage is capped at 18 mills per year for the next four (4) years.

**WHERE AND WHEN DO I VOTE?**

The election will be held on Tuesday, August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at your regular voting precinct. Polls are open at 7:00 AM and will remain open until the polls close at 8:00 PM

**PLEASE REMEMBER –**

All registered voters who reside in the Fowlerville Community School District are eligible to vote. EVERY VOTE COUNTS – We're counting on you. **Thank you in advance for taking the time out of your day to vote on Tuesday, August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2014.**

Approved at last month's meeting of the Board of Education was a ten cent increase to the 2014-2015 hot lunch prices. I wanted to be sure to mention that this increase was mandated by the federal and State government based on a formula they use. The District does its very best to maintain affordable hot lunch prices as well as provide healthy and nutritious lunches for our students. I apologize for the inconvenience this will cause many of you but wanted to give you as much advance notice as I could.

As always, please feel free to email me at [roedelw@fowlervilleschools.org](mailto:roedelw@fowlervilleschools.org) if you have any questions or concerns about the District. Again, thank you for taking the time to vote on Tuesday, August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

Sincerely,

Wayne Roedel, Superintendent

Fowlerville Community Schools



SPECIAL EDUCATION MILLAGE

# Fast Facts

# Q & A

**On Tuesday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, voters in Livingston County will be asked to vote on a ten-year, 1.0435 millage restoration to help fund the cost of special education in our local districts.**

**Q: Why is LESA seeking a special education millage?**

*A: Special education services in our county are significantly underfunded. This means local districts must use general education funds to pay for special education services that are mandated by state and federal law. In 1988, Livingston County voters authorized 3.1 mills to support special education. Since that time, the millage rate has been reduced due to Michigan's Headlee Amendment.*

**Q: Why do special education costs impact general education budgets?**

*A: Local school districts are mandated by state law to provide special education. When current millage dollars do not cover special education costs, districts must use their general fund dollars to pay for these services. Local districts in Livingston County are paying around \$15 million per year for unreimbursed special education costs out of general education budgets. That means there are fewer dollars to support programs for all students.*

**Q: Why has special education funding dropped so much?**

*A: The \$15 million shortfall in special education comes from several sources, most notably, the drop in property values.*

**Q: What is being proposed?**

*A: The proposal will restore 1.0435 mills for ten years. If approved, these funds will substantially reimburse local school districts for ongoing shortfalls in special education funding.*

**Q: How much would this request cost taxpayers?**

*A: Generally, taxpayers can expect to spend about \$1 for each \$1,000 of the taxable value of their property.*

Market Value	\$100,000.00
Taxable Value	\$50,000.00
<b>Annual Cost</b>	<b>\$52.18</b>

**Q: Why is the LESA Special Education election important to the Fowlerville Schools community?**

*A: Fowlerville Community Schools would receive \$700,000 with the successful passage of this proposal to subsidize the district's costs for special education. Currently the district is subsidizing the \$1.5 million shortfall in special education funding from its General Fund.*

**Q: If I don't have children who receive special education services, how does this impact my family?**

*A: Special Education is a federally and state-mandated program and the unreimbursed costs equate to approximately \$28,000 per pupil. Fowlerville Schools must use General Fund dollars to make up for the shortfall in funding. The \$700,000 Fowlerville Schools would receive will free up this same amount from the district's general fund. This could be used to maintain programs & services, including instruction and facilities, for the benefit of ALL of our students.*

**Q: If I don't have any students in the district, why should I vote?**

*A: Traditionally, quality schools and community services have helped to sustain and increase property values. Fowlerville Community Schools facilitates a wide range of programming that spans well beyond kindergarten through high school - including the Fowlerville Online Learning Academy, Little Glad Center, Community Recreation and the Alverson Center for Performing Arts. In addition, many of Fowlerville's fields and facilities are used by the community during the school year. These additional funds would allow the district to maintain its infrastructure and facilities - keeping these programs and opportunities available for the community.*

**Q: Will the additional revenue be distributed equitably to the 5 local public school districts within the county?**

*A - Yes. The revenue will be allocated based on total student enrollment. Our District educates approximately 10% of Livingston County's total student population. If the measure passes and generates 7 million dollars, we would receive about 10% of that or \$700,000.*

*Used county wide - printed in local newspaper and used as a handout in elementary Friday folders.*

*I'm not sure if Dan Danosky at LESA had it vetted by them.*