

# Howell Public Schools Non-Homestead Millage Renewal

## What you Need to Know:

On Tuesday, November 4, 2014, Howell Public Schools is asking voters to approve a renewal of the current 19.0495 mill non-homestead operating millage.

This proposal will not impact the taxes on residential or agricultural property; only second homes, commercial and industrial properties are affected. This is not an increase, but a renewal of the currently levy.

The non-homestead millage makes up approximately 11.5 million dollars of the Howell Public Schools' 65.5 million dollar annual budget. Renewal of the non-homestead millage is essential to maintaining the current programs offered by the district. If this funding is lost, the district cannot replace it with any other funding source.

While primary households are not affected by this millage, state law requires a district wide election to approve the millage.

## To Learn More:

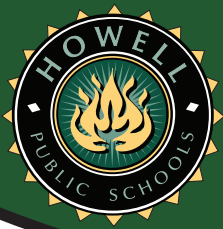
If you have specific questions or would like more information regarding the non-homestead millage renewal, please contact the Business Office at 517-548-6357 or visit [www.howellschools.com](http://www.howellschools.com).



**Vote**  
**Tuesday**  
**November 4**

## In Summary:

- This is a renewal of the current non-homestead millage, approved by voters in 2004
- The renewal is for a period of 12 years
- This is a tax assessed against businesses and second homes, **NOT** homeowners or agricultural property
- All residents in the Howell Public Schools district vote on the renewal
- This money is used for district operations
- This money cannot be replaced by other funding sources



# Non-Homestead Millage Renewal Frequently Asked Questions

## **What does non-homestead mean?**

Non-homestead represents industrial, commercial, second homes and some agricultural property. It does not include a family's primary residence.

## **Is this a new tax?**

No. The non-homestead millage was last passed in 2004. The current millage expires with the 2015 tax levy.

## **My primary residence is in the Howell Public Schools district. If the non-Homestead millage renewal passes, will my property taxes increase?**

No. The tax applies to non-homestead properties like commercial property, not your primary residence.

## **I thought schools no longer received funding through property taxes. Why is Howell Public Schools asking for a millage renewal?**

Funding for Michigan school districts changed significantly when voters passed Proposal A in 1994. Under Proposal A, the state funds a portion of public school districts, but to receive full funding schools must levy 18 mills on non-homestead property in the district.

## **Why is Howell Public Schools asking for 19.0495 mills when the state only requires 18 mills?**

Legally, Howell Public Schools is only allowed to levy a maximum of 18 mills. The district is seeking a renewal of the 19.0495 mills as a means to protect against a future Headlee rollback. If there were a Headlee rollback, the district would still be able to levy the full 18 mills. The district cannot legally levy more than 18 mills.

## **What if the renewal does not pass?**

If the non-homestead millage is not renewed, Howell Public Schools will lose approximately \$11.5 million from its budget. This would be a 17% reduction of the operating budget. The State of Michigan will not replace the lost revenue; therefore, Howell Public Schools would have to reduce programs and staff to reach a balanced budget.

## **How are Michigan school districts funded?**

Michigan public school districts receive funding from several sources. The largest source is the per pupil Foundation Allowance which is funded by local revenue collected on non-homestead property and state revenue. For the 2014-15 school year Howell Public Schools' per pupil Foundation Allowance is \$7,251. If the non-homestead millage is not renewed, the district's per pupil Foundation Allowance would drop significantly.