

Voting on November 4, 2014 will take place at the following polling locations:

*Casnovia Township Hall
245 S. Canada Road
Casnovia MI 49318
616-675-4064*

*Chester Township Hall
3509 Sehler Street
Conklin MI 49403
616-899-5544*

*Moorland Township Hall
12416 E. Apple Avenue
Ravenna MI 49451
231-853-2015*

*Ravenna Township Hall
3770 Blackmer Road
Ravenna MI 49451
231-853-6205*

*Sullivan Township Hall
8138 Hts. Ravenna Road
Ravenna MI 49451
231-853-6900*

Should you have any questions regarding your assigned polling location, please contact your local township or county clerk.

WHERE CAN I GET ANSWERS TO OTHER QUESTIONS I MAY HAVE ABOUT THE NOVEMBER 4, 2014 ELECTION?

Please call the Ravenna Public Schools Administration Office at 231-853-2231.



Ravenna Public Schools
12322 Stafford Street
Ravenna MI 49451

Inside: Important questions and answers about the non-homestead millage renewal!!



**Ravenna Public
School District**

18 Mills

Non-Homestead RENEWAL

On Tuesday, November 4, 2014, at the General Election, voters in the Ravenna Public School District will be asked to consider renewing the current assessment of 18 mills on non-homestead properties. There are three very important things to understand about this request:

- This is a renewal of the current assessment of 18 mills on non-homestead properties. Non-homestead properties are properties that are not designated as a primary residence (your home). Examples of non-homestead property would be business properties, vacation homes, etc.
- The renewal of this levy will maintain the current level with no tax rate increase and will not affect taxes on primary residences (your home).
- Approval of this request is extremely important because this millage provides approximately 5%, or over \$527,000, of the school district's annual budget.

November 4, 2014

General Election

The following questions and answers are provided for your information so that you may cast an informed vote.

Questions and Answers:

WHAT IS MEANT BY HOMESTEAD AND NON-HOMESTEAD PROPERTIES?

When Michigan voters passed Proposal A in 1993, Michigan's property taxes for schools were restructured and reduced. Property was divided into two categories: homestead and non-homestead. A homestead property is your primary residence (the home where you live). Non-homestead properties are land and buildings such as businesses, and vacation homes that have not been designated as a primary residence.

WHY IS THIS ISSUE ON THE BALLOT NOW?

Under Proposal A, renewal of the 18 mills is required periodically by voters in order for the district to continue collecting this millage. Because our authorization expires in **2015**, we need your approval to continue collecting these dollars, which are crucial in maintaining our educational programs.

WILL APPROVAL OF THIS RENEWAL RESULT IN A TAX RATE INCREASE?

No. Approval of this request will maintain the current assessment on non-homestead property and will not change or increase the assessment on your primary residence.

HOW MUCH OF OUR LOCAL SCHOOL BUDGET DOES THIS NON-HOMESTEAD MILLAGE FUND?

The current assessment of 18 mills that voters are being asked to approve is used to fund a significant part of the school district's operating budget. Approximately 5%, or over \$527,000, of the annual budget comes from the 18 mill non-homestead tax assessment.

WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF THIS MILLAGE DOES NOT PASS?

If the request for the renewal of the 18 mills non-homestead was not approved, Ravenna Public Schools would lose more than \$527,000 (5%) of funding for the 2015-2016 school year and a similar amount each following year. There is no other way we can receive these dollars except by voter approval of the 18 mills non-homestead renewal. Losing over \$527,000 of the district's operating budget would have a major impact on the educational programs offered to students and the community.

WHAT IS THE BALLOT LANGUAGE FOR THIS ISSUE?

RAVENNA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

OPERATING MILLAGE

RENEWAL PROPOSAL

This proposal will allow the school district to levy the statutory rate of 18 mills on all property, except principal residence and other property exempted by law, required for the school district to receive its revenue per pupil foundation allowance and renews millage that will expire with the 2015 tax levy.

Shall the currently authorized millage rate limitation of 19 mills (\$19.00 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, in Ravenna Public Schools, Muskegon and Ottawa Counties, Michigan, be renewed for a period of 5 years, 2016 to 2020, inclusive, to provide funds for operating purposes; the estimate of the revenue the school district will collect if the millage is approved and 18 mills are levied in 2016 is approximately \$527,111 (this is a renewal of millage which will expire with the 2015 tax levy)?



WHAT ABOUT ABSENTEE BALLOTS?

Absentee ballots will be available from your local township clerk starting Saturday, September 20, 2014. Please contact your local clerk for an application.

WHEN IS THE ELECTION?

- Tuesday, November 4, 2014
- Polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m.
- Last day of registration to vote in the November 4, 2014 election is October 6, 2014

WHERE DO I VOTE?

Residents of Ravenna Public School District will vote at the polling locations which have been designated by your local township clerk.



Ravenna Public Schools
12322 Stafford Street
Ravenna, MI 49451
Phone: 231-853-2231
Fax: 231-853-2193