



Operating Millage Renewals on November Ballot

On November 5, 2013, voters in the Royal Oak School District will vote on an Operating Millage Renewal Proposal (see ballot language below). The millages in the proposal have been in place since the approval of proposal A in 1994 and were last renewed in 2006. The proposal would authorize an 18 mill levy on non-homestead properties; non-homestead property taxes are not levied on owner occupied primary residences. The proposal would also authorize a 3.4 mill hold-harmless levy on principal residences. The 3.4 mill authorization is a reduction from the 3.5030 hold-harmless authorization approved by voters in 2006.

“These are not new taxes. These are not tax increases. In fact, the hold-harmless authorization is a reduction from that which voters approved in 2006,” said Shawn Lewis-Lakin, Superintendent of Schools. “We rely on the revenue from these millages for one-third of our operating budget. This proposal is critically important to our schools and our community. “

SAMPLE BALLOT LANGUAGE FOR NOVEMBER 2013

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE CITY OF ROYAL OAK COUNTY OF OAKLAND STATE OF MICHIGAN

OPERATING MILLAGE RENEWAL PROPOSAL

This proposal, if approved by the electors, will allow the School District of the City of Royal Oak to continue to levy the number of operating mills required for the School District to receive revenues at the full per pupil foundation allowance permitted by the State of Michigan.

Shall the limitation on the total amount of taxes which may be assessed against all property, except principal residence and other property exempted by law, situated within the School District of the City of Royal Oak, County of Oakland, State of Michigan, be increased as provided in the Michigan Constitution, in the amount of 18 mills (\$18.00 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation), and against all principal residences and other property not exempted by law, by 3.4 mills (\$3.40 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation), both millages to be for a period of seven (7) years, from July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2021, inclusive with the above 18 mills and the above 3.40 mills (which is a reduction from the 3.5030 mills previously authorized by the electors) being a renewal of millage which would otherwise expire on December 31, 2013? These operating millages if approved and levied, would provide estimated revenues to the School District of Eighteen Million Eight Hundred Thousand (\$18,800,000) Dollars during the 2014 calendar year, to be used for general operating purposes.

Royal Oak Schools 2013-2014 Tax Rates

When the sinking fund proposal was approved by voters in November, 2012, the district believed that this new 1.0 mil levy would be partially offset by reductions to debt and hold-harmless taxes. In May 2013, when the Board of Education approved tax rates for the 2013-2014 school year, they were able to reduce the debt and hold-harmless rates so as to totally negate the new 1.0 mil sinking fund levy. This means that the total Royal Oak School millage rate in 2013 will be the same as it was in 2012.