**18 Mill NON-HOMESTEAD VOTE IS MAY 5**

**Non-Homestead Operating Millage Renewal of 18 Mills Proposal**

The Tahquamenon Area Schools Board of Education has approved the placement of a “Renewal of the 18 Mills of Non-Homestead Millage” on the May 5, 2015 ballot. **There is no tax rate increase.** The tax applies only to commercial and industrial property and second homes, not primary residences.  Voters are being asked to renew the tax, which expires in 2015, for 1 year, 2016. The renewal would generate approximately $3 million for the district in 2016 for general operations for classrooms.  Please vote on Tuesday, May 5.

**Frequently Asked 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 the home where you live (primary residence).  **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?**

A renewal of the 18 mills is required annually 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 the revenue, which is crucial in maintaining TAS’s educational programs.

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

Approval of this request will maintain the current assessment on non-homestead property and **will not change or increase the assessment on your home residence.**

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

The current assessment of 18 mills that voters are being asked to approve for renewal is used to fund a significant part of TAS’s school district operating budget.  Approximately $3,000,000 (46%) of the annual budget comes from the 18 mill non-homestead tax assessment.

**WHY IS THE RENEWAL OF THE NON-HOMESTEAD MILLAGE IMPORTANT?**

If the request for the renewal of the 18 mills non-homestead was not approved, TAS would lose approximately $3 million of funding (46%) for the 2015/16 school year and similar amounts for each following year.  T**here is no other way to receive the revenue except by voter approval of renewal of the 18 mills non-homestead on Tuesday, May 5, 2015.**