

Frequently Asked Questions

What does non-homestead mean?

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

I thought schools no longer received funding through property taxes so why are you talking about a millage renewal?

Funding for school districts changed significantly in 1993/94 when Proposal A was passed by the Michigan voters. Under Proposal A, the State pays the majority of the cost, but to receive full funding, schools must levy 18 mills locally on non-homestead property in their District.

Is this a new tax?

No. This millage was approved by the voters twice since 1994. The District was given voter approval to levy 18 mills on non-homestead property most recently in June 2004. The current millage expires with the 2013 tax levy.

Will my residential school taxes increase too?

No. This tax is on non-homestead property and does not apply to your primary place of residence.

What happens if the millage doesn't pass?

The revenue generated from the 18 mills on non-homestead property totals approximately \$12 million annually. Failure to renew the non-homestead mills would change our state school aid foundation amount from the current \$7,175 per student to a much lower \$6,000 per student. The State will not replace the funding and the Waterford School District will be forced to reduce or eliminate instructional and support programs for our students to offset the reduction of revenue.

How are Michigan school districts funded?

Districts receive most of their funding on a per-pupil basis. The amount that a school district receives per-pupil is called the Foundation Allowance. The per-pupil Foundation Allowance for the Waterford School District is \$7,175. This represents approximately 80% of Waterford School District's revenue and is funded from two sources: 1) local revenue – 18 mills collected on non-homestead property and 2) state revenue.

Why are we voting on this millage in November?

School Districts may have ballot language in November of each General Election year. November of 2012 is the first time the District may vote on this renewal without a Special Election, which would cost the District approximately \$60,000.

Absentee Voting

It's easy to vote using an Absentee Voter Ballot! You may use this method if you are 60 years or older; unable to vote without assistance at the polls; expecting to be out of town on election day; unable to attend the polls due to religion; appointed to work as an election inspector in a precinct outside of your voting precinct. You may obtain an Absentee Voter Ballot Application online at waterford.k12.mi.us/millage.htm.

Voting Precincts

Your voting poll location is shown on your voter ID card. Please contact the Waterford Township Clerk's Office at 248.674.6266 or visit waterford.k12.mi.us/millage.htm to learn where your voting poll site is located.



Tuesday, November 6

Cost to the Homeowner

Zip, zilch, nada. This non-homestead millage renewal will allow the district to levy 18 mills on non-homestead property. **If approved, homeowners will not see an increase in their property taxes.** In other words, this millage renewal will not change the taxes on your primary house in which you live. **This is not a new tax.** It is a proposal to continue the existing 18 mill assessment on non-homestead properties.

More Information

To have specific questions answered or to obtain more information please contact Tom Wiseman, Assistant Superintendent Business & Operations:

248.682.0554

You may also visit our website at www.waterford.k12.mi.us



Tuesday, November 6

Waterford School District
Kurzman Administration Services
501 N. Cass Lake Road
Waterford, MI 48328

POSTAL CUSTOMER

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Waterford, MI
Permit No. 2

Non-homestead Millage Renewal

**Zero Increase to
Homeowner
Taxes!**



Tuesday, November 6

Waterford School District

Inspire, educate, and empower our students for their future!