

Non-Homestead Millage Renewal

Wayland Union Schools



NOTE

MORE INFORMATION

To have specific questions answered or to obtain more information, please contact Bill Melching, Director of Finance & Operations: 269-792-2181 or visit www.wayland.k12.mi.us.

Tuesday, August 5

On August 5, 2014, Wayland Union Schools is asking voters to renew the current 18.387-mill Non-Homestead millage.

This proposal does 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 our current levy.

The Non-Homestead millage makes up \$2.88 million of the Wayland Union Schools' \$26 million annual budget. Renewal of the Non-Homestead millage is essential—this money cannot be replaced with any other funding source. Even though primary households are not

affected, state law requires a district-wide election to approve this millage.

In summary:

- This is a renewal of the current 18.387 mills that voters approved in 2004
- The renewal is for a period of 6 Years
- This tax is assessed against businesses and second homes, NOT homeowners or agricultural property
- Residents in the WUS district vote on the renewal
- This money is used for district operations
- This money cannot be replaced by other sources

Zero Increase to Homeowner Taxes!

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 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 taxes locally on non-homestead property in their District.

Is this a new tax?

No. This millage was last approved by the voters in 2004. The current millage expires with the 2014 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 tax on non-homestead property totals approximately \$2.88 million annually. Failure to renew the non-homestead mills would change our state school aid foundation amount from the current \$7,026 per student to a much lower \$6,040 per student. The State will not replace the funding and the Wayland Union 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 Wayland Union School District is \$7,026. This represents approximately 80% of Wayland Union School's revenue and is funded from two sources: 1) local revenue collected on non-homestead property and 2) state revenue.

Why the 18.387 and not just 18 mills?

The district is only legally allowed to levy a maximum of 18 mills. We are seeking renewal of the 18.387 mills as a means to protect against any future headlee rollback. In the event of a headlee rollback the district would then still be able to levy the full 18 mills but would never be able to levy more than 18 mills.

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 www.wayland.k12.mi.us.



OTE
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