

2013 Millage Renewal Quick Facts



B E R K L E Y
S C H O O L S

Election Day: Tuesday, May 7, 2013

Proposals on the Ballot: General Operating Fund and Sinking Fund Millages

General Operating Fund - Renewal

Renewal of 18.9666 authorized mills that are levied on businesses and non-primary residences.

The district will, however, only levy 18 mills. This is not a levy on primary household residences. This is also known as a Non-Homestead Millage.

The revenue generated from the General Operating Fund Millage is considered by the State when calculating the district's per pupil amounts, and generated approximately \$3.1 million in 2012. Without this millage, the district would be facing more than a \$600 per pupil loss – out of the \$7727 per pupil rate in 2012.

Non-homestead millages are typically approved for a ten year period. This millage was previously approved by Berkley School District voters in 2002 and expired with the levy for the 2012-13 school year. The 18 mills are levied 100% within the summer tax bill.

General Operating Fund Millage dollars are used to support the district's every day expenses including classroom supplies and technology.

Sinking Fund - Renewal

Renewal of .7367 mills levied on all properties in the Berkley School District.

The Sinking Fund generated \$635,000 in 2012.

The original Sinking Fund was approved by voters for ten (10) years and is expiring in 2014. If the proposal on the May 7th ballot is approved, the renewal would begin with the 2014-15 school year.

Since its inception, Sinking Fund resources funded investments supporting students, staff and community projects such as Hurley Field track resurfacing and turf replacement, BHS auditorium seating/related improvements, boiler repairs, new lockers, roofing/lot/concrete replacement projects, technology infrastructure improvements and lighting/energy improvements, among many others.

If the Sinking Fund is not approved, maintenance, upgrades and repairs of Berkley School District facilities would need to be paid for out of general operating funds, or not at all, and will reduce what can be spent in the classroom.

FAQs

Will my taxes increase if these proposals are passed?

No-Both millage proposals are continuations or renewals of current taxes.

If the General Operating Fund Millage is not passed by voters, will my taxes go down if I'm a homeowner?

No. The General Operating Fund Millage is a tax on non-homestead properties, not primary residences.

The General Operating Fund Millage is levied on Non-Homestead properties.

What does Non-Homestead mean?

Non-homestead property includes all taxable property within the district with the *exception* of a family's primary residence. Non-homestead property includes industrial, commercial and some agricultural property and 'second homes.'

What happens if the General Operating Fund Millage is not approved?

The revenue generated from the 18 mils totals approximately \$3.1 million annually. If this millage does not pass, the Berkley School District would be forced to reduce or cut programs to offset the \$3.1 million.

What's the last day to register to vote for this election?

April 8, 2013

What is the last day to pick up an absentee ballot from my City Clerk's Office?

The last day a ballot can be mailed or taken from the City Clerk's Office is 2:00 pm on the Saturday before the election, (May 4, 2013).

Why does the ballot language for the General Operating Fund Millage say 'increase' when this is a renewal?

The millage approved by voters in 2002 expired with the 2012-13 levy. Because it expired, the technical language used for the ballot must say "increase." However, the millage rate requested is the same as the expiring millage rates, therefore taxes won't increase.

What can Sinking Fund dollars be used for?

Under current law, Sinking Fund dollars may be used for the construction or repair of school buildings and facilities, acquiring or installing technology (wiring or materials for installing), and the purchase of real estate sites. Sinking Funds cannot pay for salaries, benefits, or classroom supplies.

Why have both proposals on the ballot now when Sinking Fund doesn't expire until 2014?

The Berkley School District believes putting both issues on the same ballot is an efficient use of voter time and election resources and is intended to save tax dollars by consolidating two elections.

Why weren't the proposals added to the November 2012 ballot?

The Berkley School District did not participate in the November election because the district didn't want these important millage renewals to be lost among a very full ballot of many state and national issues.

Why are the proposals on the May ballot, instead of the November 2013 ballot?

In order to collect the General Operating Funds for the 2013-14 school year, the Non-Homestead millage proposal must be on the ballot in May, in time to be included on the summer 2013 tax bill.