



## Blissfield Community Schools Operating Millage Renewal Proposal Information

### **Non-Homestead Operating Millage Renewal Proposal**

If approved, the operating millage proposal would renew the existing levy on the non-homestead properties and provide 2.1 million in district funding. The 18-mill levy costs the average homeowner zero dollars (\$0 per year).

All Michigan school districts must levy 18 mills on non-homestead property to receive their full foundation allowance, the major source of funding for Michigan schools.

On Nov. 20, 2023, the Blissfield Community School District Board of Education passed a resolution to submit a proposal for a special election to be held on Tuesday, Feb. 27, 2024.

If approved, the proposal would allow the school district to continue to levy the statutory rate of 18 mills on non-homestead property, in order for the school district to receive its full revenue per-pupil foundation allowance.

### **What every taxpayer should know about the operating millage renewal proposal**

- All Michigan school districts must levy 18 mills on non-homestead property to receive their full foundation allowance – the major source of funding for Michigan schools.
- The 18-mill levy costs the primary residence homeowner zero dollars (\$0 per year). Owned primary residences do *not* pay the 18-mill tax.
- If approved, the operating millage proposal would renew the existing levy on non-homestead properties, which include businesses, vacation homes, investment and rental properties.
- If the operating millage proposal does not pass, BCS per-pupil revenue would fall from \$9,608 to \$8,060, which equates to a loss of \$2.1 million in district funding.

### **Ballot language**

*Blissfield Community School District Operating Millage Renewal Proposal*

*Shall the limitation on the amount of taxes which may be assessed against all property, except principal residence and other property exempted by law, in Blissfield Community School District, Lenawee and Monroe Counties, Michigan, be increased by 18 mills (\$18.00 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation) for a period of 5 years, 2024-2028, inclusive, to provide funds for operating purposes; the estimate of the revenue the school district will collect if the millage is approved and 18 mills are levied in 2024 is approximately \$2,100,000 (this renewal of millage that expired with the 2023 tax levy)?*

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Non-homestead operating millage renewal proposal

What is a non-homestead operating millage?

- *The operating millage is a levy on non-homestead properties that are not an owned primary residence or qualified agricultural property, such as a business, vacation home, investment and rental property.*
- *All school districts in Michigan must levy 18 mills on non-homestead property to receive their full foundation allowance from the state.*
- *Owned primary residences do not pay the 18-mills tax (\$0 per year).*

Is this a new tax?

- *No, this is not a new tax. It was first levied in 1994 with the passage of Proposal A, and BCS voters have periodically voted renewals and restorations of that tax over the years.*

Would tax rates increase for owned primary residences if voters approved the millage?

- *No. Owned primary residences do not pay the 18-mills levy. The operating millage renewal proposal would apply to commercial and industrial properties, second homes and rental properties.*

Why is a non-homestead millage important for Michigan school districts?

- *All school districts in Michigan must levy 18 mills on non-homestead property within district boundaries, such as commercial, and industrial properties, second homes and rental properties, to receive their full foundation allowance, or per pupil funding, from the state.*
- *For BCS, the operating millage provides \$2.1 million. The general fund is the primary operating fund for the district and accounts for most of what it takes to teach a child in a classroom.*

What happens if the millage is not approved by the voters?

- *If this millage does not pass, BCS per-pupil revenue would fall from \$9,608 to \$8,060, which equates to a loss of \$2.1 million per year in district funding for student support systems.*

How is this millage rate calculated by the State of Michigan?

- *A millage rate is the rate at which taxes are levied on property. Property taxes are computed by multiplying the taxable value of the property by the number of mills levied, where a mill is 1/1000 of a dollar. So, if a business property has a value of \$100,000, and is assessed a 1 mill tax rate, \$100 in taxes are owed.*

## Voter Information

When are the polls open to vote on February 27, 2024?

- *The election polls will open at 7:00 a.m. and close at 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 27, 2024.*

How can a Michigan resident register to vote?

- *To learn more about voter registration, such as eligibility requirements, how to register to vote in Michigan, and updating or canceling voter registration, go to:  
<https://www.michigan.gov/sos/elections/voting/register-to-vote>.*

When can residents register to vote?

- *Monday, Feb. 12, 2024, is the last day for voters to register by mail.*
- *Voters may register in person through Tuesday, Feb. 27, 2024 (Election Day) by visiting their local clerk's office to register in person with proof of residency documentation.*

Are election clerk offices open on Saturday and Sunday before the election?

- *Election clerk offices must be open for at least 8 hours on the last Saturday (Feb. 24, 2024) and/or Sunday (Feb. 25, 2024) before the election to issue and receive absent voter ballots. The election clerk must post notice of any dates and times at least 30 days before the election.*

Where can voters go to learn about February 27, 2024 election calendar dates?

- *Voters can learn about election calendar dates and deadlines at:  
<https://www.michigan.gov/sos/elections/ballot-access/deadlines>.*

Who can vote by absentee ballot?

- *All registered voters in Michigan have the right to vote by mail using an absentee ballot delivered to their home. Voters can also request an absentee ballot directly from their local clerk's office. Absentee ballots are available beginning 40 days prior to every election.*
- *Michigan voters can decide to be placed on a permanent absentee ballot list. The local clerk will then mail them an absentee ballot for all local, state, and federal elections.*

Where can voters go to learn more about absentee voting?

- *For more information about absentee voting, go to:  
<https://www.michigan.gov/sos/elections/voting/absentee-voting>.*

For questions, please contact Scott Riley, Superintendent, at 517-486-2205 or email [sriley@blissfieldschools.us](mailto:sriley@blissfieldschools.us)