



# REGIONAL ENHANCEMENT MILLAGE RENEWAL

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

On Tuesday, May 5, 2020, voters in each of the nine school districts in the Kalamazoo RESA service area will be asked to vote on whether to renew a three-year, 1.5-mill property tax millage, which supports the operations of the public school districts and charter schools in the KRESA service area.

### **Is this a new millage or a millage increase?**

Neither. It's a renewal. The original three-year, 1.5-mill property tax millage that voters first approved in May 2005 and then most recently renewed in 2017. This is a request whether to renew the millage for another three years. If approved, taxpayers would continue paying the same millage rate they have been paying since 2005.

### **How do school districts currently use the money?**

Each local school board decides district budget needs and priorities. Millage funds are used to support instructional services, support services and other district priorities.

### **How much do the schools get from this millage?**

As the fiscal agent, Kalamazoo RESA distributes the tax revenues to school districts and charter schools on a per-student basis. Each school district and charter school receive the same per-student amount, which is approximately \$364/student.

### **Why are charter schools included in the millage renewal proposal when they have not been included in the past?**

Changes to the applicable state law since the millage was originally approved added charter schools as beneficiaries of the millage effective May of 2018. All beneficiaries must be listed on the ballot.

### **How much would this renewal request cost the taxpayer?**

Since the enhancement millage is a renewal, it would not cause any increase in tax rates. Homeowners would pay based on the taxable value of their home, which is typically about half of the market value. A homeowner with a home with a taxable value of \$75,000 (approximate market value of \$150,000) pays \$112.50/year, which is \$9.38/month.

### **COVID-19 Election Information**

On March 27, 2020, Governor Whitmer signed executive order 2020-27, which substantially changes the rules and procedures for the May 5, 2020 election, so that these elections may be conducted by absentee voter ballot to the greatest extent possible in an effort to limit in-person contact.

### **Is the Enhancement Millage still being voted on the May 5 election?**

Yes, registered voters in each of the nine school districts in the Kalamazoo RESA service area will be asked to vote on whether to renew a three-year, 1.5-mill property tax millage, which supports the operations of the public school districts and charter schools in the KRESA service area.

## How will the vote be conducted for this election due to COVID-19 and executive order 2020-27?

The election must be conducted to the greatest extent possible by absentee voter ballots. All currently registered voters will receive an absentee voter ballot application to request an absentee voter ballot. Voters who submit an absentee voter ballot application will receive an absentee voter ballot that can be returned by mail in a postage-prepaid envelope. Newly registered voters will automatically receive an absentee voter ballot.

## Will I be able to vote in person?

The election must be conducted to the greatest extent possible by absentee voter ballots. However, each jurisdiction must maintain at least one (1) location on Election Day where any voter can appear in-person to receive and submit a ballot, including an individual with a disability that inhibits the individual from voting an absentee voter ballot remotely. It is our understanding that each of the townships and cities in Kalamazoo County will have a polling place, and that the county clerk's offices in Barry, Calhoun, Kalamazoo, and St. Joseph Counties will be open for voting on Election Day.

## When is the last day to register to vote?

The last day to register to vote by mail for this election is Monday, April 20, 2020, using the form available at [www.michigan.gov/documents/MI\\_VoterRegistration\\_97046\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/MI_VoterRegistration_97046_7.pdf). An individual can register to vote online by visiting [www.michigan.gov/voterregistration](http://www.michigan.gov/voterregistration). Anyone who registers online after April 21 must email or mail residency verification (often a driver's license, but other items can be used) to their county clerk prior to Election Day in order to receive a ballot. Voters may register in person through Election Day, May 5, 2020, during any hours in which the local election clerk's office is open.

## What is the language on the ballot?

### KALAMAZOO REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICE AGENCY REGIONAL ENHANCEMENT MILLAGE RENEWAL PROPOSAL

This proposal will allow the intermediate school district to continue to levy regional enhancement millage that expired with the 2019 levy. Pursuant to state law, the revenue raised by the millage will be collected by the intermediate school district and distributed to local public school districts based on pupil membership count.

Shall the limitation on the amount of taxes which may be assessed against all property in Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency, Michigan, be increased by 1.5 mills (\$1.50 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation) for a period of 3 years, 2020, 2021 and 2022, to provide operating funds to enhance other state and local funding for local school district operating purposes; the estimate of the revenue the intermediate school district will collect if the millage is approved and levied in 2020 is approximately \$12,543,252, which funds will be disbursed as required by statute to the following school districts: Augusta Academy, Climax-Scotts Community Schools, Comstock Public Schools, Evergreen Academy, Forest Academy, Galesburg-Augusta Community Schools, Gull Lake Community Schools, Kalamazoo Covenant Academy, Kalamazoo Public Schools, Lakeside Charter School – Kalamazoo, Oakland Academy, Paramount Charter Academy, Parchment School District, Portage Public Schools, Schoolcraft Community Schools, Vicksburg Community Schools and Youth Advancement Academy?