



# VOTE MAY 2



## 2023 Whitmore Lake Public Schools

# OPERATING Millage

## Ballot Language Breakdown

### PROPOSAL SECTION

#### Local School District

#### Whitmore Lake Public School District Operating Millage Proposal

- 1 This proposal will allow the school district to levy the statutory rate of not to exceed 18 mills on all property, except principal residence and other property exempted by law, required for the school district to receive its revenue per pupil foundation allowance.
- 2 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 Whitmore Lake Public School District, Washtenaw and Livingston Counties, Michigan, be increased by 21 mills (\$21.00 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation) for a period of 10 years, 2023 to 2032, inclusive, to provide funds for operating purposes; the estimate of the revenue the school district will collect if the millage is approved and .0542 mill is levied in 2023 is approximately \$43,052 (this will replace existing millage and also adds additional millage that will be levied only to the extent necessary to restore millage lost as a result of the reduction required by the Michigan Constitution of 1963)?
- 3

**1** Primary residences, the homes you live in most of the time, are not taxed with this 10-year millage. This tax is for businesses and second homes.

**2** Wait, didn't it just say 18, but now it says 21? We have Headlee Rollback and school funding to thank. Headlee Rollback requires a local unit of government (like a school) to reduce its millage rate when property value growth is more than inflation. This is why our operating millage will go down (roll back) to 17.01 over five years. The problem is that the State of Michigan doesn't take Headlee Rollback into account and cuts us the check for our state aid assuming we are collecting the full 18 mills. They deduct the value of 18 mills from our state aid before sending us the rest of our funding. Without this Operating Millage we will lose more than \$400k over five years.

The only way to fix it, is to go back to the voters each time Headlee Rollback happens to have them approve the 18 mills again. Proactively, though, we are asking permission in advance, following suit with other districts, by adding a 3-mill cushion to the ballot. This will allow us to maintain the 18 mills over 10 years, as long as it doesn't roll back more than 3 mills.  $18+3=21$ .

**3** \$43,052 is just for year 1. Without this Operating Millage, we will lose nearly \$80k in 2024, \$118k in 2025 and \$159k in 2026. **We will lose over \$400k over five years.** This pays for essential day-to-day operations from teacher salaries to building utilities.

**SCAN TO:** 

- Register to Vote
- View Sample Ballot
- Get Absentee Ballot
- Find Out Where to Vote

**CONTACT SUPERINTENDENT  
TOM DEKEYSER WITH QUESTIONS**

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\*This is with an average headlee millage reduction fraction of 0.9863