

Huron School District

WAYNE COUNTY ENHANCEMENT MILLAGE

August 5, 2014 Election

Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

Q: What is being asked of Huron and Wayne County voters on the August 5 ballot?

A: Voters are being asked to approve a county-wide, two-mil, six year education enhancement millage on taxable property. If approved this issue would generate approximately \$380 per student in public schools across Wayne County. Huron Schools would receive \$996,442 each year based on the 2013-2014 student count.

Q: What is an “enhancement millage?”

A: It is a millage that is assessed to all taxable property in the county. It would be distributed on a per student basis to each public school district in Wayne County. It is the only way that local school boards can raise operating funds for student programs and a service, since Proposal A was passed in 1994.

Q: How would the enhancement millage impact my taxes?

A: For every \$1,000 of **taxable** value of your home, \$2.00 would be assessed. Normally, **taxable** value property is 50% of the market value.

Market Value	Taxable Value	Mills	Yearly Cost	Monthly Cost	Weekly Cost	Daily cost
\$100,000	\$50,000	2.0	\$100.00	\$8.33	\$1.92	.27
\$175,000	\$87,500	2.0	\$175.00	\$14.58	\$3.37	.48
\$250,000	\$125,000	2.0	\$250.00	\$20.83	\$4.81	.68
\$300,000	\$150,000	2.0	\$300.00	\$25.00	\$5.77	.82

Q: How did this enhancement millage end up being on the August ballot?

A: It is a requirement of law that if local school district boards of education representing over 50% of the county’s public school students request that an enhancement millage be brought forward to the voters, then it must be placed on the ballot. The threshold was reached in Wayne County.

Q: Why is the money needed by other school districts and Huron Schools?

A: If approved, the enhancement millage will allow Huron Schools to recover some of the dollars lost due to massive cuts that occurred over the past three years. In 2011, The State of Michigan cut funding to all schools. Huron Schools was one of the hardest cut by \$565 per student. The combined cuts per pupil for the last three years equal \$4,544,012. The enhancement millage would only restore a fraction of what has been taken and continues to be taken from Huron students.

Q: Why wouldn't each school district run an individual enhancement millage, if they needed the revenue?

A: Individual school districts are prohibited by law to hold an enhancement millage. The law was changed under Proposal A which was approved in the State of Michigan in 1994.

Q: How did Huron Schools and other school districts survive these cuts in funding?

A: Some school districts have not survived; Inkster and Buena Vista Schools were dissolved by the State of Michigan. Several school districts in the state have emergency managers and 52 public schools have been operating with deficit budgets as of June 30, 2013. The Huron Schools Board of Education and district employees have taken a number of steps to remain fiscally stable. The Board of Education has controlled or reduced expenses. Every attempt has been made to maximize revenues.

Also, every employee in the school district has taken major concessions in salaries, wages and benefits. Low impact programs were eliminated; many district positions have been reorganized or left unfilled. The district has also consolidated services with other districts and organizations.

The entire focus has concentrated on the district's mission: "Completely Committed to Kids!" This has kept our student counts stable and even growing in some years. It has been a very difficult process for employees and the Board of Education but many believe it has been a process of cooperation and shared sacrifices.

Q: Are there any requirements for the use of the enhancement millage revenue by school districts?

A: School districts have local control for spending these dollars. The enhancement millage revenues may be used for any purpose deemed appropriate by each school district's board of education.

With voter approval, The Huron Board of Education would like to concentrate the additional funds toward the district-wide strategic plan, our bold initiatives and beliefs.

During the 2012-2013 school year, nearly 700 school and community stakeholders shared their hopes, dreams and concerns of Huron Schools. Thousands of stakeholder responses were recorded, analyzed and formed into a 3-5 year strategic plan. Here are just a few of the common themes from students, parents, employees, community leaders and stakeholders.

- Intensify the use of technology for student engagement, learning and achievement
- Providing a rigorous and engaging curriculum so that all students will reach their full potential
- Invest in great teachers that build relationships and deliver quality, research based instruction
- Provide services and staff to meet the academic, social, emotional and behavioral needs of students
- Maintain a safe, caring, respectful and productive atmosphere that promotes teaching and learning
- Never forget or change the district's mission, "Completely Committed to Kids"
- A strong well rounded educational program is essential for student success in and out of the classroom

These are the guiding principles that drive the school district every day and will be the principles used if the enhancement millage is approved by voters. For additional information or answers to your questions, please call 734-782-2441 ext. 100. Also check our website at Huronschools.org