

Proposal does not affect taxes on primary residences

School millage proposal will be on May 2 ballot

The Warren Woods Board of Education has placed a non-homestead millage proposal on the May 2nd ballot.

The “replacement operating millage proposal” will not affect taxes on primary residences (the homes in which residents of Warren Woods Public Schools live). The millage proposal applies primarily to businesses, second homes, rental property, and vacant land.

Warren Woods Public Schools’ non-homestead millage proposal is on the ballot because school districts in Michigan must levy 18 mills on non-homestead property to receive their full share of State Aid.

While Warren Woods voters approved an 18-mill non-homestead levy in 2005, it has been rolled back under provisions of the Headlee Amendment to the Michigan Constitution. As a result of rollbacks since 2016, Warren Woods Public Schools has lost \$1,063,398 in State Aid.

The original 18 mill levy has now been rolled back to 16.1889 mills, and will now cause the school district to lose over \$400,000 in State Aid this school year.

Projections are that the school district will continue losing State Aid every year, and the revenue loss will increase if the replacement millage is not approved by voters.

While the non-homestead tax does not apply to taxpayers who live in their primary residence, they get to vote on the non-homestead millage proposal because that is the law in Michigan. In 1994, the Michigan legislature adopted a school funding law that required all Michigan homeowners to pay six mills in property tax. In addition, the law required all Michigan school districts to levy 18 mills on non-homestead property to get their full share of State Aid. The law allows all taxpayers in a school district to vote on the non-homestead millage.

The bottom line

- ✓ While school districts can only levy a non-homestead tax of 18 mills, Warren Woods Public Schools—like many other Michigan school districts—is asking for 20 mills to protect the school district from future rollbacks.
- ✓ All residents of the Warren Woods Public Schools are eligible to vote at the polls on May 2 (or by absentee ballot beginning March 23).
- ✓ For more information and continuing updates, go to www.warrenwoods.misd.net and click on *School Millage Proposal*.