

# Q&A

# EDUCATION MILLAGE RENEWAL Fast Facts

*On Tuesday, May 2, 2017, voters in each of the nine school districts in Kalamazoo County will be asked to vote on the renewal of a 3-year, 1.5-mill property tax which will help to fund operations of county public school districts.*

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

A: Neither. It's a renewal. The original 1.5-mill, 3-year millage that voters first approved in May 2005 and then most recently renewed in 2014, is due to expire this year. This is a request to renew the millage for another three years. Taxpayers would be paying the same millage rate they've been paying since 2005.

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

A: Since it 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.

### **Example**

Market Value	\$100,000
Taxable Value	\$50,000
<b>Annual Cost</b>	<b>\$75</b>

## **Q: How much would the schools get from this millage?**

A: Kalamazoo RESA distributes the tax revenues to school districts on a per-student basis. Each school district would receive the same per-student amount (approximately \$339). To read about the state law regarding such millages, go to [www.kresa.org](http://www.kresa.org).

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

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

## **Q: Who can vote in this election?**

A: Any registered voter who resides in a school district within the Kalamazoo RESA service area can vote in this election. This includes all districts in the county: Climax-Scotts, Comstock, Galesburg-Augusta, Gull Lake, Kalamazoo, Parchment, Portage, Schoolcraft and Vicksburg.

## **Q: When is the last day to register to vote?**

A: The last day to register to vote in this election is April 3, 2017.

## **Q: Can I vote by absentee ballot?**

A: Some of the most common reasons you may be eligible for an absentee ballot include:

- You expect to be absent from the community in which you are registered for the entire time the polls are open on election day.
- You are physically unable to attend the polls without the assistance of another.
- You cannot attend the polls because of the tenets of your religion.
- You are 60 years of age or older.

Absentee ballots can be requested from the City or Township Clerk where you reside. Those voters who wish to receive an absentee ballot by mail must submit an application to their clerk by April 29, 2017.