

October 14, 2011

**Northville Public Schools community votes November 8 on
Non-Homestead Millage Renewal, Board of Education candidates**

Northville Public Schools voters will be asked on Tuesday, November 8, 2011, to renew a previously approved 20.91-mills Non-Homestead Millage that comprises \$8 million of the school district's annual operating budget.

In addition to the Non-Homestead Millage Renewal, also on the ballot for school district voters is the election of two new individuals to four-year terms on the Board of Education. Candidates running for the two open seats are Anita Bartschat and Scott Craig.

Last renewed in 2003, the Non-Homestead Millage Renewal has NO tax impact on Northville homeowners of primary residences (the home in which you live). Instead, the Non-Homestead Millage applies to businesses, rental properties, vacation homes and any other properties in the Northville school district that are not primary residences. Because this is a renewal, not an increase, those Northville business and non-primary resident property owners impacted will continue paying the same millage rate they pay now.

"Approval of this millage renewal by Northville school district voters is critical to our ability to sustain our educational programs for students," said Northville Public Schools Superintendent Mary Kay Gallagher. "The Non-Homestead Millage makes up 12 percent of our school district's total annual revenues. These are the funds used to pay for staffing, purchase textbooks and classroom supplies, and operate our school buildings. These local funds are deducted from the per pupil money we receive from the state. If the millage renewal is not approved, the state will not make up the difference."

Under Proposal A, the State of Michigan assumes school districts will collect locally the maximum Non-Homestead mills allowed by law, and subtracts that amount from the per pupil allowance it pays school districts. For Northville Public Schools this is equal to more than \$1,100 per pupil or \$8 million.

While 18 mills is the maximum levy on Non-Homestead properties allowable under state law, Northville Public Schools is requesting a 10-year renewal of 20.91 mills to offset a possible "Headlee Rollback," should one occur in the future. In a nutshell, the Headlee Amendment requires local units of government (including school districts) to reduce, or "rollback," their millage rate when the annual growth on existing property exceeds the inflation rate. When this rollback occurs, school districts receive less funding than is allowable under state law, unless that funding is restored through a supplemental election.

This situation occurred in 2003, when the Non-Homestead Millage for Northville Public Schools was reduced from 18 mills to 17.6641 mills due to a Headlee Rollback. In response, to restore the full funding allowable under law, Northville Public Schools voters in 2004 approved a "Headlee Adjustment" of 0.25 mills. The district's Non-Homestead operating millage was again reduced and in November 2005, Northville voters approved an additional 3.0 Non-Homestead mills in order to restore the district's full Non-Homestead Millage and in anticipation of future Headlee Rollback adjustments.

Although the district is seeking renewal of 20.91 Non-Homestead mills, only the maximum allowable 18 mills will be levied, with the balance of the approved millage available in the event of the need for future Headlee Rollback adjustments.

For answers to frequently asked questions about the Non-Homestead Millage Renewal and Board of Education candidate profiles, as well as information about voting precincts, locations and times visit the district website at www.northville.k12.mi.us. Questions regarding the Non-Homestead Millage Renewal can be e-mailed to nps@northville.k12.mi.us.