

Brimley Area Schools

2020 OPERATING MILLAGE RENEWAL

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Brimley Area Schools is asking for a renewal of its operating millage this year. The millage was last renewed by Brimley voters in 2015. Brimley Area Schools uses this operating millage to provide financial resources to pay for high-quality educational programs that assist our students with meeting educational goals. By meeting these educational goals, the school district has received many national, state and local awards. Most notable are: Dispelling the Myth Award, Bridge Magazine Academic State Champions, U.S. News and World Report Bronze Medal eight times, All State Honors for the elementary school as well as the district, Top 100 elementary and high schools in the state, and ACT scores above state average, just to name a few. This operating millage will assist Brimley Area Schools to continue to provide high-quality programs that will serve our students completely.

What is the Brimley Area Schools operating millage proposal that will be on the ballot on Tuesday, August 4, 2020?

The district is asking that the millage rate on non-homestead properties (2nd homes and business property) be renewed at 18.9115 mills. If this renewal is not approved, the millage rate in 2020 on those properties will fall to zero and the district will lose approximately \$1,206,362.00 in operating revenue each year unless and until the millage is renewed by the voters. This is no local operating millage levied on homestead property or on qualified agricultural property. Brimley Area Schools' district voters previously approved operating millage in 2015, and it is now time to renew the millage.

How does this affect my property taxes?

There is no property tax increase for homeowners' primary dwellings. The operating millage renewal is not levied on homestead property. Only non-

homestead properties (businesses, 2nd homes, etc.) are impacted. Homeowners will see no increase on local school taxes for their primary dwellings if the proposal is approved.

What difference will this operating millage make for Brimley Area Schools?

If voters approve the operating millage renewal at 18.9115 mills, Brimley Area Schools will continue to receive full funding for daily operation at approximately \$1,206,362.00 per year for the next 10 years. This \$1,206,362.00 represents about 17% of the district's total funding sources each school year.

How will Brimley Area Schools use the operating millage renewal funding?

The annual operating budget of Brimley Area Schools is approximately \$7,136,405.00 of which, some key expenditures are: classroom curriculum, and materials, school supplies, facility upkeep and maintenance, utility costs (electric, gas, water, and sewer), fuel costs and student transportation and bussing. The operating millage renewal represents about 17% of this \$7,136,405.00 million budget, and is vital to the day-to-day operation of the district to serve students and the community. The loss of \$1,206,362.00 of funding each year would be detrimental to the quality of education and services that Brimley Area Schools can provide its students, families, community, and other stakeholders.

How many years will this renewal be in effect?

The ballot language asks the public to consider renewing the 18.9115 mill operating levy for ten years, from 2021 to 2030.

What will the ballot language say on August 4, 2020?

OPERATING MILLAGE RENEWAL PROPOSAL

This proposal will allow the school district to continue to levy the statutory rate of 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 and renews millage that will expire with the 2020 tax levy. The remaining .9115 mill is only available to be levied to restore millage lost as a result of the reduction required by the “Headlee” amendment to the Michigan Constitution of 1963 and will only be levied to the extent necessary to restore that reduction.

Shall the currently authorized millage rate limitation of 18.9115 mills (\$18.9115 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation) on the amount of taxes which may be assessed against all property, except principal residence and other property exempted by law, in Brimley Area Schools, Chippewa County, Michigan, be renewed for a period of 10 years, 2021 to 2030, inclusive, to provide funds for operating purposes; the estimate of the revenue the school district will collect if the millage is approved and 18 mills are levied in 2021 is approximately \$1,206,362.00 (this is a renewal of millage that will expire with the 2020 tax levy)?

What does the term “Headlee” mean? Why do Headlee rollbacks happen?

When property is sold and re-valued at a level much higher than the rate of inflation, Headlee is triggered. An example would be a large vacant parcel of land sold and being developed as a subdivision. All empty lots in the new subdivision are probably valued much higher than the original parcel and much higher than the rate of inflation. Thus, a Headlee rollback is triggered and the millage rate is reduced.

The district is asking for 18 mills to be renewed, but why is there an additional .9115 mills comes into play to offset the funding reduction Brimley Area Schools would face due to the rollback. However, is no event would the total millage rate exceed 18 mills. As previously stated, this is a renewal of operating millage local voters supported on the ballot in 1996 and restored in 2015.

The district is asking for 18 mills to be renewed, but why is there an additional .9115 mills on the ballot language?

This is in case a Headlee rollback occurs in the future. In the event that the millage rate is reduced due to a Headlee rollback to below 18 mills, the additional .9115 mill will only be used to replace the millage lost due to the rollback.

When and where can I vote on Tuesday, August 4, 2020?

The polls open at 7:00 a.m. and close at 8:00 p.m. on August 4, 2020. The following locations are polling places for district voters:

Chippewa Township Hall

Bay Mills Township Hall

Superior Township Hall

Dafter Township Hall

Where can I learn more about the operating millage renewal proposal?

For more information, community members can call, 906-248-3219, or follow Brimley Area Schools on Facebook.