



Lake Shore Public Schools

Non-Homestead Operating Millage Proposal FAQ

February 2024

Quick Facts about the election

- This millage will have no effect on a homeowner's primary residence (the home in which a Lake Shore homeowner lives).
- While school districts can only levy a non-homestead operating millage of 18 mills, Lake Shore Public Schools—like many other Michigan school districts—is asking for 19.3227 mills to protect the school district from any future rollbacks.
- If the millage is not renewed by Lake Shore voters, the school district will lose \$2.6 million in operating revenue. This will necessitate substantial reductions in the educational program.
- All registered voters living in the Lake Shore Public Schools can vote on this proposal at the polls on February 27 (or by absentee ballot beginning January 18).
- For more information and continuing updates, go to www.lakeshoreschools.org and click on *Non-Homestead Proposal*.



Frequently Asked Questions

When is the election?

The election will be held during the February 27, 2024, presidential primary election. The polls will be open from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m. Absentee ballots will be available after January 18 and can be cast through Election Day. Voters can also cast their ballot nine days early in this election. Contact your local clerk for more information about early voting.



What is on the ballot?

An 11-year, 19.3227 mill non-homestead operating millage proposal. (By law, Michigan school districts can only levy 18 mills on non-homestead property. The additional 1.3227 mills can only be levied if and when the 18-mill operating millage levy is rolled back under provisions of the Michigan Constitution.)

What is a non-homestead operating millage?

Lake Shore's non-homestead operating millage supports the school district's general operating budget. The operating budget covers everything necessary to provide educational programs and services in Lake Shore Public Schools.

In all Michigan school districts, the 18 mill non-homestead levy is subject to rollbacks per the Headlee Amendment to the Michigan Constitution. While school districts cannot levy more than 18 mills on non-homestead property, Lake Shore Public Schools is requesting approval of a 19.3227 mill non-homestead levy to protect against future rollbacks if and when they occur.

What will be the cost to a homeowner who lives in the Lake Shore Public Schools?

Nothing. The non-homestead replacement millage is not levied on primary residences (the home in which a homeowner lives); it only applies to businesses, second homes, vacant land, and rental property. All school districts in Michigan must levy 18 mills on non-homestead property to receive their full share of state aid (i.e foundation allowance).



Businesses



Second homes



Rental property

How much revenue will the non-homestead operating millage generate?

The non-homestead operating millage generates approximately \$2.6 million annually. This is 5.7 percent of the school district’s operating budget.

What is the exact language of the non-homestead operating millage proposal?

Here is the ballot wording for the non-homestead operating millage proposal:

**LAKE SHORE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
OPERATING MILLAGE PROPOSAL**

This proposal will allow the school district to levy the statutory rate of not to exceed 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. The remaining 1.3227 mills are only available to be levied to restore millage lost as a 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 limitation on the amount of taxes which may be assessed against all property, except principal residence and other property exempted by law, in Lake Shore Public Schools, Macomb County, Michigan, be increased by 19.3227 mills (\$19.3227 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation) for a period of 11 years, 2024 to 2034, 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 2024 is approximately \$2,629,396?



If school districts can only levy 18 mills, why does the proposal ask voters to approve a 19.3227-mill non-homestead operating millage?

While Michigan law limits non-homestead levies to 18 mills, the 1.3227-mill cushion will protect Lake Shore Public Schools if and when future rollbacks occur.

If the non-homestead operating millage does not apply to taxpayers who live in their primary residence, why can all registered voters living in Lake Shore Public Schools vote on this proposal?

All registered voters living in Lake Shore Public Schools can vote on the non-homestead operating millage proposal because it is a school district millage. School district millages are funded by property taxes, but they are not limited to property owners. It is also the way the law was written when it was established in 1994.

A YES vote typically means that a voter supports a ballot proposal. Is that the case in this election?

Yes. Voters who support the Lake Shore Public Schools' non-homestead operating millage should vote YES; voters who oppose the non-homestead operating millage should vote NO.

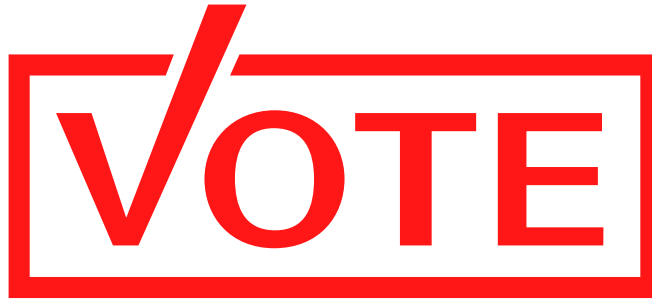
How will the proposals benefit residents who don't have school-age students?

There are numerous benefits for residents without school-age children. School district facilities and sites are regularly used by community members who do not have school-age children.

The Lake Shore Public Schools Board of Education believes the school district is an important community resource and partner. They also believe the value and vitality of our community depend on the quality and marketability of our schools.

In addition, research shows that communities with good schools help to maintain local property values. It is in our community's best interest to protect its investments and to attract families and businesses to our area.





Who can vote in the February 27 presidential primary election?

Residents of Lake Shore Public Schools who will be 18 years of age or older on Election Day and are registered to vote can vote in this election.

Where can I get information about voting (such as how to register, where to vote, absentee voting, and nine days of early voting)?

Go to the Michigan Voter Information website, www.michigan.gov/vote, or call your local clerk's office.

Do I need to update my voter registration?

You need to update your voter registration if you have changed your name or address since the last time you voted. You can do this at any Secretary of State Office or local clerk's office.

Can I vote by absentee ballot?

Yes. All registered voters can vote by absentee ballot in this election. You can request an absentee ballot application from your clerk's office or by going to www.michigan.gov/vote and clicking on *Vote at home*.

If you are on the permanent absentee voter list and received an absentee ballot application from your local clerk, you must return the application in order to receive your absentee ballot. If you are not on the permanent absentee voter list and would like to request an absentee ballot application, please call your local clerk.

Applicants will receive their absentee ballot in the mail.

Absentee ballots will be available to voters after January 18 and can be cast through Election Day.

What if I don't want to vote in the presidential primary?

You can vote on local issues only by absentee ballot or at the polls.

Contact your local clerk for more information.



Where can I get more information about the non-homestead operating millage proposal?

Go to www.lakeshoreschools.org and click on *Non-Homestead Millage*.

Contact Superintendent of Schools Dr. Joseph DiPonio by phone (586/285-8480) or email (jdiponio@lspss.org).