

On August 3, voters in the Hopkins school district will decide whether or not to approve a renewal of the district's operating millage. The millage applies only to non-homestead property such as commercial business, rental properties, vacant land and second-home properties. Primary homeowners aren't impacted by the millage.

It is important to understand how school districts are funded in Michigan. In Michigan, school districts get the bulk of their operation funding from two main sources: local property taxes and state school aid.

With voter approval, school districts may levy up to 18 mills on non-homestead properties — those that don't serve as the owner's primary residence or fall under another exemption.

Most school districts also get money from the School Aid Fund which comes from another 6 mills that is levied against all taxable property in the state. Each year state lawmakers establish a "foundation grant" amount for school districts. That number is then multiplied by the number of students enrolled in a district to establish how much tax revenue the district is entitled for that year. The state then makes up the difference between what the district receives in local property taxes collected on the 18-mill non-homestead levy and the amount to which the district is entitled through its foundation grant calculation.

Hopkins Public Schools is asking voters to recommit to this much needed funding.

The ballot language of the proposal is shown below. Please call (269) 793-7261 if you have any questions on this issue.

HOPKINS PUBLIC SCHOOLS OPERATING MILLAGE RENEWAL PROPOSAL

This proposal will allow the school district to continue 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 and renews millage that will expire with the 2021 tax levy.

Shall the currently authorized millage rate limitation of 19.4662 mills (\$19.4662 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 Hopkins Public Schools, Allegan County, Michigan, be renewed for a period of 5 years, 2022 to 2026, 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 2022 is approximately \$853,350 (this is a renewal of millage that will expire with the 2021 tax levy)?