

# Non-Homestead Millage Renewal



## Grand Haven Area Public Schools

***On Tuesday, May 2, 2017, Grand Haven Area Public Schools' residents will have the opportunity to vote on the annual Non-Homestead Millage Renewal. Below are answers to frequently asked questions.***

***How does this fit into the overall school funding structure?***

Michigan schools are funded under a structure created when voters approved Proposal A in 1994. Under the plan, Michigan schools are funded with a total of 24 mills on non-homesteads. This is made up of a state-wide millage rate of 6 mills on all property, and 18 mills on non-homestead property, which must be approved by local voters. Under Proposal A, the state guaranteed our foundation allowance, and in Grand Haven, 25 percent of that comes from the millage on non-homestead property. To receive full funding, schools must levy the 18 mills on non-homesteads.

***Why is this referred to as a "non-homestead" ballot issue?***

This millage is assessed on non-homestead property only. Non-homestead property includes all taxable property other than a principal residence, such as qualified agricultural, forestry and industrial properties. Some examples of non-homestead property include industrial/commercial property, apartment buildings, rental homes, vacation property, and some vacant land.

***Is this a new tax?***

No. Grand Haven voters approved this millage for the first time in 1994, and have done so annually ever since.

***Will my residential school taxes increase?***

No. This tax is on non-homestead property and does not apply to your primary place of residence.

***How much will this cost my business?***

This renewal will have no effect on current business tax rates. Because this is a renewal, the cost is the same as what you are paying today.

***What if the millage is voted down?***

The revenue generated from the 18 mills totals over \$17 million annually, or about 25 percent of the district's \$70 million budget. If the non-homestead millage does not pass, the district will need to make reductions to offset the cost since the state will not replace the funding deficit.

***Could the district use bond money to cover the loss?***

No. Bond dollars are restricted by law to specific uses, which does not include general operating fund expenditures.

***Where can I read the ballot language?***

Please visit the GHAPS website ([www.ghaps.org](http://www.ghaps.org)) for additional ballot language information.