

# Romeo Community Schools

Sinking Fund Millage Proposal  
&  
Non-Homestead Millage Proposal

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February 27, 2024



## ■ When is the election?

The election will be held on February 27, 2024, the Michigan presidential primary ballot. The polls will be open from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m. Absentee ballots will be available six weeks prior to Election Day, 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.

## ■ What is on the ballot?

A 5-year, sinking fund millage renewal proposal and a 5-year non-homestead renewal millage proposal.



## ■ What is a sinking fund millage?

Sinking funds are a pay-as-you-go method of funding upgrades and repairs to schools and school facilities. The sinking fund replacement millage proposal renews the sinking fund last approved by voters in 2019.

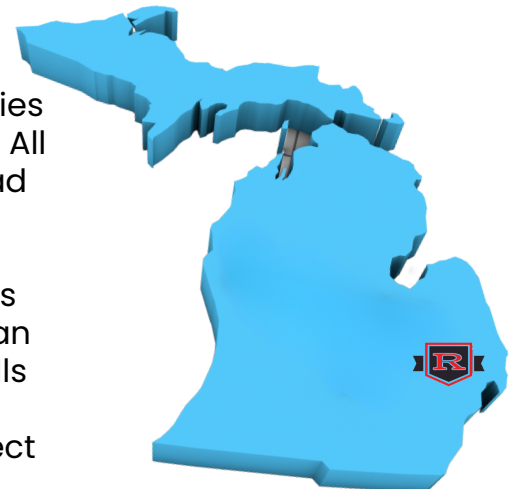
About 2/3 of the state's public school districts currently have a sinking fund in place to address their facility needs.

## ■ What is a non-homestead millage?

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

The non-homestead renewal 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 foundation allowance.

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, Romeo Community Schools is requesting approval of a 19.5-mill non-homestead levy to protect against future rollbacks when they occur.



## ■ Why is the sinking fund important to Romeo Community Schools?

The 1.25 mill sinking fund last approved by voters in 2019 has been reduced to 1.2127 mills due to reductions required under the Michigan Constitution.

Romeo Community Schools' Sinking fund generates approximately \$3.4 million per year. This allows the school district to purchase instructional student devices, remodel facilities and instructional spaces, replace or purchase technology infrastructure, repair school buildings and facilities, and purchase security equipment and buses.



## ■ Why is the non-homestead important to Romeo Community Schools?

The non-homestead millage is projected to generate \$10,566,130 during the 2025 calendar year. This revenue makes up 12% of the school district's operating budget.

All Michigan school districts must ask voters to approve a non-homestead property tax. If school districts don't follow this procedure established by the Michigan Legislature, they will not receive their full foundation allowance.

## ■ If school districts can only levy 18 mills, why does the proposal ask voters to approve a 19.5-mill non-homestead replacement millage?

While Michigan law limits non-homestead levies to 18 mills, the 1.5-mill cushion will protect Romeo Community Schools when future rollbacks occur.



## ■ If the non-homestead tax does not apply to taxpayers who live in their primary residence, why can all registered voters living in Romeo Community Schools vote on this proposal?

All registered voters living in Romeo Community Schools can vote on the non-homestead tax 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.



## ■ How can sinking fund revenue be used?

Sinking funds can be used for the purchase of school property sites, the construction or repair of school buildings, school security improvements, the purchase and support of student transportation vehicles, and the acquisition or upgrading of technology.

Sinking funds cannot be used for operating expenses, salaries, employee benefits, or routine building maintenance. In accordance with State law, projects paid for through a sinking fund must be audited annually and reviewed by the Michigan Department of Treasury.

## ■ What will happen if voters don't approve the sinking fund replacement millage?

If the sinking fund is not approved by residents, facility repairs and updates will have to be postponed or, if necessary, paid for through the school district's operational budget. Taking money from the operational budget would reduce the revenue that is used to support the educational program and operate the school district.

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

Yes. Voters who support the Romeo Community Schools' non-homestead renewal millage and sinking fund renewal millage should vote YES; voters who oppose the non-homestead renewal millage and sinking fund renewal millage should vote NO.

# ■ What is the exact ballot language for the sinking fund millage proposal?

Here is the exact ballot wording for the sinking fund millage renewal proposal.

## ROMEIO COMMUNITY SCHOOLS COUNTIES OF MACOMB AND OAKLAND STATE OF MICHIGAN

### BUILDING AND SITE SINKING FUND MILLAGE RENEWAL PROPOSAL

*This proposal will renew and restore the authority last approved by the electors in 2019 and which expires with the 2024 levy for the School District to levy a building and site sinking fund millage, the proceeds of which will be used to make improvements and repairs to the School District's facilities. The prior authorization of 1.25 mills has been permanently reduced to 1.2127 mills pursuant to the reduction required under the Michigan Constitution. Pursuant to State law, the expenditure of the building and site sinking fund millage proceeds must be audited, and the proceeds cannot be used for teacher, administrator or employee salaries, maintenance or other operating expenses.*

Shall the Romeo Community Schools be authorized to levy 1.25 mills (\$1.25 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation), for a period of five (5) years, being the years 2025 to 2029, inclusive, to create a building and site sinking fund to be used for the construction or repair of school buildings, school security improvements, the acquisition or upgrading of technology, the acquisition of student transportation vehicles, trucks and vans and parts, supplies and equipment used for the maintenance of these vehicles and for any other purposes permitted by law? This millage if approved and levied would provide estimated revenues to the School District of approximately \$3,466,200 during the 2025 calendar year.

YES     

NO

## ■ What is the exact ballot language for the non-homestead millage proposal?

Here is the exact ballot wording for the (non-homestead) operating millage renewal proposal.

**ROMEO COMMUNITY SCHOOLS  
COUNTIES OF MACOMB AND OAKLAND  
STATE OF MICHIGAN**

**OPERATING MILLAGE RENEWAL PROPOSAL**

*This proposal will renew and restore the authority last approved by the electors in 2021 and which expires with the 2024 levy for the School District to levy the statutory limit of 18 mills on all property, except principal residences and other property exempted by law and allow the School District to continue to levy the statutory limit of 18 mills in the event of future Headlee rollbacks of up to 0.5 mill. The authorization will allow the School District to continue to receive revenues at the full per pupil foundation allowance permitted by the State.*

Shall the limitation on the total amount of taxes which may be assessed against all property, except principal residences and other property exempted by law, situated within the Romeo Community Schools be increased, in the amount of 19.5 mills with 18 mills being the maximum allowable levy (\$18.00 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation), for a period of five (5) years, 2025 to 2029, inclusive with 19.0651 mills of the above 19.5 mills being a renewal of authorized millage which will otherwise expire with the 2024 levy and 0.4349 mills being a restoration of millage lost as a result of the reduction required by the Michigan Constitution? This operating millage if approved and levied, would provide estimated revenues to the School District of \$10,566,130 during the 2025 calendar year, to be used for general operating purposes.

YES     

NO

# Information about voting...



## Who can vote in this election?

Residents of Romeo Community 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](http://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 your local clerk's office.



## Can I vote by absentee ballot?

Registered voters do not need a reason to vote by absentee ballot. You can request an absentee ballot application from your clerk's office or by going online to [www.michigan.gov/vote](http://www.michigan.gov/vote) and clicking on *Vote at home*. Applicants will receive an absentee ballot in the mail.

Absentee ballots will be available to voters six weeks prior to Election Day and can be cast through Election Day.



## Where can I get more information about ballot proposals?

- Go to [romeok12.org](http://romeok12.org) and click on *School Election Info*
- Contact Superintendent of Schools Dr. Todd Robinson at 586-752-0200 or email him at [todd.robinson@romeok12.org](mailto:todd.robinson@romeok12.org).



## Where can I share my thoughts about the ballot proposals?

Simply scan the QR code below or go to [www.research.net/r/RCSMillages](http://www.research.net/r/RCSMillages).

