

# WHITEFORD AGRICULTURAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Non-Homestead Millage Election 2023



## VOTE - Tuesday, August 8

On Tuesday, August 8, 2023, Whiteford Agricultural Schools is asking voters to consider two proposals for a Non-Homestead renewal and increase of millage. **These proposals do NOT impact the taxes on residential properties or most agricultural properties**; only second homes, commercial, industrial, and some agricultural properties are assessed. One proposal will be a renewal of 17.4572, and the second proposal will be an increase of 1.0 mill. If passed by voters, this would get us to 18.4572 mills; however, we can only collect on 18 mills.

The Non-Homestead Millage makes up approximately \$1.1 million of the Whiteford Agricultural Schools' \$10.5 million total budget. The Non-Homestead millage is essential; this money cannot be replaced with any other funding source. Even though primary households are not affected, state law requires a district-wide election to approve this millage.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **What does Non-Homestead mean?**

Non-Homestead represents industrial, commercial, and some agricultural property and second homes. It does **NOT** include a family's primary residence, so there would be **NO** increase in taxes to primary residence.

### **I thought schools no longer received funding through property taxes, so why are you talking about a millage renewal?**

Michigan schools are funded under a structure created when Michigan electors approved Proposal A statewide 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 when approved by local voters.

### **Is the proposal for renewing the 17.4572 mills a new tax?**

No, this millage was last approved by the voters in November 2018, and expires in 2023. It is a renewal for a period of 5 years, 2024 to 2028. (Note: Ballot incorrectly states 2024-2029.)

### **Is the proposal for the 1.0 mills a new tax?**

Yes; however, only second homes, commercial, industrial, and some agricultural properties are assessed. This proposal does **NOT** impact the taxes on residential properties or most agricultural properties. It is for a period of 6 years, 2023-2028. (Note: Ballot incorrectly states 2023-2029.)

### **What is a mill?**

One mill equals \$1 for each \$1,000 of taxable value. For example, one mill levied on property with a taxable value of \$100,000, the tax liability would be \$100. The "taxable value" is approximately one-half of the true cash value of the property, and can be found on the related property tax statement or by contacting your local township assessor's office.

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

No, this is on Non-Homestead property and does not apply to your primary place of residence.

**How are Michigan school districts funded?**

Districts receive most of their funding on a per-pupil basis. The amount that a school district receives per pupil is called the "Foundation Allowance". The per-pupil Foundation Allowance for Whiteford Agricultural Schools is \$9,150. This represents approximately 80% of Whiteford Agricultural's revenues and is funded from two sources: 1 - local revenue collected on Non-Homestead property and 2 - state revenue.

**What happens if the millage doesn't pass?**

The revenue generated from the tax on Non-Homestead property totals approximately \$1.1 million annually for Whiteford Agricultural Schools. Failure to renew the Non-Homestead renewal and increase would change our state aid foundation amount significantly per student. The State will not replace the funding and the Whiteford Agricultural School district will be forced to reduce or eliminate instructional and support programs for our students to offset the reduction of revenue. The Whiteford Agricultural Schools Board of Education will be forced to schedule a second election.

**Who may vote?**

To vote, a person must reside in the Whiteford Agricultural School District and must be registered.

**What If will be out of town?**

If a citizen needs an absentee ballot, he/she should contact the township clerk's office at 734.856.5383. Request your ballot early!

**When are the polls open?**

Voting will begin at 7 a.m. on August 8th and the polls will remain open until 8 p.m. that evening.

**Where can I vote?**

For this election, all voters cast their ballots at St. Michael Lutheran Church, located at 5790 W. Temperance Road in Ottawa Lake.

In closing, I have attempted to anticipate questions you may have regarding the district's request for the renewal and increase. Hopefully, this will assist you for the upcoming election on August 8, 2023. If you have specific questions that were not answered above, please contact: Scott Huard, Superintendent, at 734-856-1443 at extension 101.

We are better together - We are Whiteford!



Scott L. Huard, ED.S., Superintendent

Official Ballot Language

Proposal Section

**I. Whiteford Agricultural School District  
of the Counties of Monroe and Lenawee  
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 2023 tax levy.

Shall the currently authorized millage rate limitation of 17.4572 mills (\$17.4572 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 Whiteford Agricultural School District of the Counties of Monroe and Lenawee, Monroe and Lenawee Counties, Michigan, be renewed for a period of 5 years, 2024 to 2029, inclusive, to provide funds for operating purposes; the estimate of the revenue the school district will collect if the millage is approved and levied in 2024 is approximately \$1,062,500 (this is a renewal of millage that will expire with the 2023 tax levy)?

Yes ☐

No ☐

**II. Whiteford Agricultural School District  
of the Counties of Monroe and Lenawee  
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.

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 Whiteford Agricultural School District of the Counties of Monroe and Lenawee, Monroe and Lenawee Counties, Michigan, be increased by 1 mill (\$1.00 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation) for a period of 6 years, 2023 to 2029, inclusive, to provide funds for operating purposes; the estimate of the revenue the school district will collect if the millage is approved and levied in 2023 is approximately \$31,465 (this millage is to restore millage lost as a result of the reduction required by the Michigan Constitution of 1963)?

Yes ☐

No ☐