

Manchester Community Schools
May 4, 2010
Millage Renewal Proposals

Question: Are we being asked to consider a new tax?

Answer: No, this is the same millage that has been in place since 1994. It is renewed in five year intervals.

Question: Will this change the taxes that I pay on my home?

Answer: No, this millage is for non-homestead property only and does not apply to your primary place of residence. This vote does not effect the taxes you pay on the home in which you live.

Question: Is this the same millage proposal that was on the ballot last November?

Answer: No, this is different. This is a Manchester community millage vote only, and not a county-wide proposal. It is not a new tax. It is not a tax increase. It is proposal that simply renews a millage that has been in place for over fifteen years.

Question: Why are there two millage questions?

Answer: The first proposal renews the 18 mill levy on non-homestead property for five years. The second proposal allows the district to levy the full 18 mills each of the next five years and will be levied only to the extent necessary to restore any millage lost due to a Headlee rollback. The proposals do not allow the district to levy more than 18 mills total on non-homestead property.

Question: What does the proposal mean for the schools?

Answer: Passage of the proposal protects the local non-homestead tax revenue that supports our schools. This revenue is critical to maintaining the current level and quality of school district programs and services. This tax is not collected on people's primary residence. If this millage is not renewed, our schools would lose an additional 1.16 million dollars in operating revenue. This equates to roughly ten percent of the funding for our schools, and it would be in addition to an anticipated reduction in state revenue to our schools for next year of over \$500,000.

Question: Are our schools reducing costs?

Answer: Yes, over the past three years our school board has enacted over \$800,000 in spending reductions. A listing of these reductions is posted on our district website (go to "departments," and then "finance department"). We already are identifying additional reductions for the 2010-2011 school year in response to the anticipated loss in state revenue. Passage of this proposal will not eliminate the significant financial challenges facing our school district. Passage of the proposal will ensure that the challenges do not become dramatically more severe.

Question: When and where do I vote?

Answer: Voting will occur at your local township hall on Tuesday, May 4, 2010.