August 4, 2020 Hamilton Community Schools Ballot Proposals

August 4, 2020 is right around the corner and Hamilton Community Schools has two very important proposals on the ballot. Please take a few moments to learn more about what each of these requests will mean for our school district.

How will August 4 proposal dollars be spent?

	OPERATING MILLAGE Generates $3,637,000 (11.125% of our operating budget)	BOND Generates $65,625,000
Salaries & Benefits	X	
Transportation	X	
Supplies & Materials	X	
Operational Costs	X	
Maintenance	X	
Capital Improvements		X
New Roofs	X	X
HVAC Upgrades	X	X

If approved, the bond proposal would free up funds from the General Fund for items such as roofs, boilers, and mechanical / electrical / plumbing systems, keeping General Fund dollars in the classrooms.

Hamilton Community Schools OPERATING MILLAGE PROPOSAL

This is a renewal request of the current non-homestead millage. This proposal would allow the district to levy the statutory rate of 18 mills on non-homestead properties within the district. If approved, it would **NOT** result in a change to the taxes you pay on your primary residence. These are dollars that are included in our funding from the state, but MUST be approved and collected locally. If this proposal fails the State will not make up for the loss of funds.

- Applies only to rental properties, business properties and vacation homes. Homeowner and agricultural property taxes would not be impacted.
- A two-year millage renewal would continue support of day-to-day operations, such as salaries and benefits, transportation, supplies and materials, operational expenses such as utilities, and maintenance items.
- This is not a new tax but a continuation of the current rate.

- Without this operating millage, the school district would experience an estimated $3,637,000 loss (11.125% of our total budget) in funding each year and require cuts to programs and services for our students

Hamilton Community Schools BONDING PROPOSAL

A bond proposal is how a community authorizes a school district to borrow money to pay for capital expenditures.

- Would allow the district to borrow **$65,625,000** to fund a wide variety of projects with a focus on **KIDS, COMMUNITY & FUTURE.**
- You can view these projects at https://www.hamiltonschools.us/our-district/aug-4-2020-bond-proposal/
- Bond funds can be spent on new construction, additions, remodeling, sites, athletic facilities, playgrounds, buses, furnishings, equipment, and technology.
- Bond funds **CANNOT** be used on operational expenses such as salaries and benefits, supplies and materials, and operational expenses such as utilities and maintenance items
- If approved, it would result in a tax increase to your primary residence.
- Tax calculator tool: https://www.hamiltonschools.us/millagecalculator.html
- If approved, the bond proposal would ensure that General Fund dollars are spent in the classroom and not needed for items such as new roofs, boilers, and mechanical / electrical / plumbing systems.
- If not approved, necessary capital improvements in coming years would be paid for by the General Fund, impacting staffing and students, along with programs and services.

For voting information, visit Michigan.gov/vote

Please contact David Tebo at dtebo@hamiltonschools.us or 269-751-5148 with questions.

For more information:

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