

Vote

City of Troy
500 W Big Beaver
Troy, MI 48084-5285

February 23, 2010 Election
Informational Brochure
For the Registered Voters at:



CITY OF TROY GENERAL ELECTION DATES:

Election Day: Tuesday, February 23, 2010

Polls are open from **7:00 AM** until **8:00 PM**

Last day to Register to Vote: Monday, January 25, 2010

The City Clerk's Office will be open:

Saturday, February 20, 2010—10:00 AM until 2:00 PM
for ABSENTEE BALLOTING

CITY OF TROY GENERAL OPERATING MILLAGE PROPOSAL

THE CITY COUNCIL WOULD BE AUTHORIZED TO LEVY UP TO 1.9 MILLS WITH THE SUCCESSFUL PASSAGE OF THE FOLLOWING QUESTION:

Shall the City of Troy levy new additional millage of up to 1.9 mills against all taxable property for a five-year period of time, 2010 through 2014, for general operating purposes, including public safety and quality of life purposes? 1.9 mills are equal to \$1.90 on each \$1,000.00 of taxable value. If approved, the additional millage levied will raise approximately \$9,129,000.00 the first year it is levied.

YES ___ NO ___

NOTE:

If you are unsure of your precinct location, need an Absentee Ballot or have any other questions, please contact the Troy City Clerk's Office at: (248) 524-3316 or elections@troymt.gov

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why is there a Special Election?

- ◆ The City of Troy is facing significant decline in its revenue stream every year for the next several years, primarily due to market conditions lowering property assessments and State Shared Revenue cuts.
- ◆ The 2008 City Charter amendment to Section 9.16.5 removed City Council's ability to increase the millage rate within the Charter allowable maximum rate without an affirmative vote of the Troy electors.
- ◆ The City Budget adoption process has timing restrictions that adversely impact the placement of the millage question on an August Primary or November General Election ballot.

How long will my tax bill have the increased millage rate if the proposal is passed?

- ◆ The City Council will only be authorized to levy the additional millage of up to 1.9 mills for five years.

Does the City Council have to levy the full 1.9 mills for all five years?

- ◆ No, the City Council will determine the amount of the 1.9 mills needed to levy each year during the budget approval process.

What efforts have been put in place to lessen the impact of the reduced revenue stream?

- ◆ The City of Troy reduced full-time staff by 13% over the last 6 years.
- ◆ The City of Troy changed the retiree healthcare and benefit plans to allow for long-term savings to the City.
- ◆ Employee groups and City Administration are pursuing ways to reduce costs. The Police Command Officers and Fire Staff Officers have agreed to the equivalent of a 5% wage reduction contingent on passage of the millage. Some management staff have also voluntarily agreed to concessions.
- ◆ The City of Troy continues to pursue outsourcing to reduce costs.

How will the proposed 1.9 millage rate affect the average city portion of a City of Troy residential tax bill? (Average based on the market value of a \$206,000 home)

- ◆ The average City of Troy tax bill in 2009 was \$1,114.
- ◆ The average City of Troy tax bill in 2010 will be \$956 without the proposed millage; a decrease of \$158 from the prior year.
- ◆ The average City of Troy tax bill in 2010 will be \$1,152 with the proposed millage; an increase of \$38 from the prior year.

Where can I find additional information on the City of Troy Special Millage Election or 6-Year Organization Restructuring Plan?

- ◆ City of Troy Web Page: www.troymi.gov/2010proposal
- ◆ Troy Today Quarterly Newsletter
- ◆ WTRY Troy Cable TV – WOW/channel 10 or Comcast/channel 53
- ◆ City Council Meetings - <http://www.troymi.gov/Council/Meetings/Archive.aspx>

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YES ___ NO ___

A YES vote means:

- City Council could levy up to 1.9 mills to retain public safety services, such as police, fire and public works, and quality of life services, such as the library, community center, museum and nature center.
- Maintain full service levels in the Police Department.
- Maintain full service levels in the Fire Department.
- Maintain full service levels in the Public Works Department including 24-hour snow removal.
- Maintain activities at the Troy Public Library.
- Maintain activities at the Troy Museum.
- Maintain activities at the Lloyd A. Stage Nature Center.
- Maintain activities at the Troy Community Center.
- Maintain services many residents and businesses look for in a city.

A NO vote means:

- Many city services will be eliminated or downsized to meet the declining revenue stream.
- Lay-off Troy Police Department personnel and decrease police services.
- Lay-off Troy Fire Department personnel and decrease fire services.
- Lay-off public works personnel and decrease some public works services including 24-hour snow removal.
- Close the Troy Public Library and lay-off all personnel.
- Close the Troy Museum and lay-off all personnel.
- Close the Lloyd A. Stage Nature Center and lay-off all personnel.
- Close the Troy Community Center and lay-off all personnel.
- Reduce City services.