



**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS
MAY 4, 2010
MILLAGE PROPOSAL**

What proposal are we voting on?

To amend the Charter of the City of Wyoming to provide for an annual levy of 1.25 mills on the dollar for public safety, specifically for the operation, maintenance and administration of police and fire services in the City of Wyoming for a period of 5 years. For a homeowner with a \$100,000 house, this means an extra \$62.50.

When is the election?

Tuesday, May 4, 2010.

Where do I vote?

To find the correct polling location, check your green and white Voter Identification Card, which lists the name and address of our polling place or call the City Clerk's Office at 530-7296, to verify that you are registered to vote and where you should go on election day to cast your ballot. You can also follow the Clerk's Office link on the City website (www.wyomingmi.gov) for voter information.

If I am not registered to vote, can I still do so? How?

The last day to register to vote to be eligible to vote in the May 4, 2010 election is April 5, 2010. You can register to vote in person at the City Clerk's Office, the County Clerk's Office, the Secretary of State and most social service agencies. You may also register to vote by mail using the form available at www.michigan.gov/vote.

How many years will the new millage levy be in effect?

Five years.

Why is the City Council asking voters to consider a 1.25 mil increase for public safety?

There are three main factors which contributed the need for additional general fund dollars for public safety.

1. The loss of state funding.
2. The closure of the General Motors Stamping Plant in Wyoming.



3. The general decrease in home values which means that we will collect less property taxes this year.

These three issues mean that less revenue will be going into our general fund this year. Since Police and Fire account for nearly 65 percent of everything we spend from the general fund, the City Council must ask voters to support public safety services, or face elimination and cuts to services.

It's important to note that this millage will only allow us to maintain our current level of services; it will not allow us to add new services or people, or bring back services like the Gezon Station.

What services are included in Public Safety?

Police and fire.

Why is the City spending money on road projects, parks and sidewalk snowplowing, when money is needed for Police and Fire?

Capital improvement projects such as road projects, along with parks and sidewalk snowplowing are funded by dedicated millages. They do not come from the general fund, unlike fire and police. In years past, voters decided to support specific activities such as parks and roads. We collect funds dedicated for these specific purposes and it is against state law to use these funds for any other purpose than what they were designated for.

It would take voter approval to remove funding from a dedicated millage and place it in the general fund for police and fire.

Why don't we implement an income tax instead?

There are some who think an income tax would prove to be a more sustainable and reliable source of funding for the City of Wyoming. It is one of the issues being studied by the City Council and staff to help create a sustainable budget.

Why don't you trim the fat from City budgets instead of cutting services like police and fire?

Since 2004, the City of Wyoming has been cutting services, pay and benefits of staff and not replacing positions when an employee leaves or retires. The fat has been cut and we are now at a place where we either cut bone or raise more money. Outside of police and fire, there are no services remaining to be cut that will solve the budget deficit the City is facing.



What services are proposed to be cut if this proposal does not pass?

One of the most notable services to be cut would be firefighters responding to medical emergencies. Police would be responsive instead of proactive and certain calls, such as larcenies, barking dog complaints, and 4th of July fireworks complaints will be handled administratively at the Police Department instead of having an officer arrive at the scene to write a report.

How does the Homestead Property Tax Credit affect the total property tax I pay?

If you qualify for the Homestead Property Tax Credit, some or all of the increased property tax from this proposal could be returned to you as an income tax credit.

Why did we build new facilities for City Hall and the Police Department if we are short on funds?

Residents voted and approved the building of a new Library, and funds for City Hall were secured in 1998, when the economy was doing much better. Today, we are dealing with state funding cuts, the closing of the GM stamping plant and the reduction in home values.

Why do we maintain and renovate so many parks throughout the City?

The Parks and Recreation Department is supported by a voter approved dedicated millage. The funds collected can only be used for the maintenance and operations of Parks and Recreation facilities. In addition, several parks throughout the City have been renovated utilizing grants awarded to the City. The recently opened Dog Park was funded 100 percent from donations of citizens and businesses.

How do I get more information?

More information is available at www.wyomingmi.gov, or call City Hall at 530-7272.