



### The Proposal

## Montabella Community Schools 'Non-Homestead' 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 Montabella Community Schools, Montcalm, Isabella and Mecosta Counties, Michigan be increased by 18 mills (\$18.00 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation) for a period of 6 years, 2025 to 2030, 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 2025 is approximately \$1,628,837 (this replaces millage that expired with 2024 tax levy)?”*



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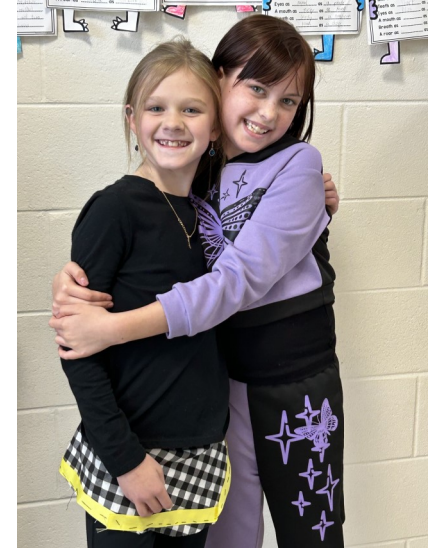
# May 6, 2025

## 'Non-Homestead' Operational Millage Tax

### CommUNITY—Strength in US!

Election Day: Tuesday,  
May 6, 2025

## 'Non-Homestead' Operating Millage Proposal



[www.montabella.com](http://www.montabella.com)

Montabella  
Community Schools

Tel: 989.427.5148

# Q&A

## Montabella Community Schools

### WHAT DOES “NON-Homestead” Mean?

Non-homestead property includes all taxable property within the school district with the exception of a family’s primary residence. Non-homestead property includes industrial, commercial and some agricultural property and ‘second homes.’

This does NOT include a family’s primary residence.



### Funding Michigan Public Schools

Proposal A dramatically improved funding equity among school districts by creating a minimum per pupil foundation allowance and by accelerating funding for the low-revenue school districts more quickly than the other school districts. Funding for the lowest-revenue districts was immediately increased to the minimum foundation allowance, which was \$4,200 for school year 1994-95. At the same time, increases in the foundation allowance for most other school districts were limited to approximately one half the dollar increase for low-revenue districts. As a result, Proposal A has reduced the funding gap between rich and poor districts in absolute dollar and percentage terms.

Public schools in Michigan receive most of their funding on a per pupil basis from the state. The amount a school district receives per pupil is called the Foundation Allowance. The per pupil allowance for Montabella Community Schools is currently \$9608. Per pupil funding sent from the state is \$7580 while the Non-Homestead collects \$2028.

Essentially, the non-homestead ensures that the District receives the state’s full funding allotment under Proposal A.



### Your vote will help determine the future of the nearly 800 students who attend Montabella Community Schools every day!

What can Non-Homestead dollars be used for? Under current law, non-homestead dollars may be used for the following

- **Teacher Salaries and Benefits** – A significant portion of the funding goes to compensate teachers, administrators, and support staff to ensure a high-quality education for students.
- **Transportation**—Funding goes toward student transportation costs. This includes funding for buses, driver salaries, maintenance, and other transportation-related expenses.
- **School Facilities and Maintenance** – Funds can be used to maintain and improve school buildings, including repairs, upgrades, and modernization projects to create a safe and effective learning environment.
- **Classroom Supplies and Resources** – Non-homestead tax dollars can support the purchase of textbooks, technology, educational materials, and other supplies necessary for classrooms.
- **Special Education Programs** – Funding is often used to support students with special needs, including individualized instruction, specialized equipment, and support staff.
- **Extracurricular Activities** – Some funds may be used for after-school programs, sports teams, music, arts, clubs, and other student enrichment activities that enhance learning outside of regular class time.
- **Curriculum Development and Instructional Support** – Money may go toward improving the curriculum, training teachers, and ensuring that the school can provide modern and effective education.

Please feel free to contact District administration at (989)427-5148 if you have questions about the May 6th Operational Millage vote.

Shelly Millis  
Superintendent



**Q:** If I vote “yes,” will my property taxes on my home increase?

**A:** NO. This is a replacement of the previous operational millage that is levied only against business, industrial, commercial, rental, and some agricultural properties.

**Q:** Why is Montabella seeking this millage?

**A:** Approval would maintain the previous voter approved tax rate of 18 mills of non-homestead property that expired in 2024. If this election is not successful, Montabella will lose over \$1.5 million of annual school funding for the 2025-26 school year.



**Q:** If I vote “no” what will happen?

**A:** Montabella will be forced to make cuts that will impact class sizes, athletics, transportation, and more.