



# 2025 Non-Homestead Millage

**Voters living within the Montabella Community School district will be asked to vote on the District's Operating Millage Proposal, a Non-Homestead Tax, on the May 6, 2025, ballot.**

## Frequently Asked

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**What does Non-Homestead mean?** Non-homestead property includes all taxable property within the school district with the exception of a family's owned primary residence, certain agricultural properties, and a few exempt categories. Non-homestead property includes industrial, commercial, some agricultural property, and 'second homes.'

**If I'm a homeowner, will my tax rates increase if this proposal is passed? No, not on your primary residence.** The non-homestead millage is for industrial, commercial, some agricultural property, and 'second homes.'

**If the Non-Homestead Millage is not passed by voters, will my tax rates go down if I'm a homeowner? No, not on your primary residence.** This millage is a tax on non-homestead properties, not primary residences. Primary residence home owners and \*renters do NOT pay this tax. \*Some landlords may include in rent.

**Is this a new tax? No.** This is technically a **REPLACEMENT** of a millage previously approved by the voters in 2019. However, the previous millage expired in 2024.

**What can Non-Homestead millage dollars be used for?** Under current law, non-homestead dollars may be used for the following general operational expenses such as:

- **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 a modern and effective education.
- **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.

**What is the last day to pick up an absentee ballot from my Village/Township Clerk's Office?** The last day a ballot can be mailed or taken from the Village/Township Clerk's Office is 4:00 pm on the Monday before the election, (May 5, 2025). You can visit <https://mvic.sos.state.mi.us/> for Michigan Voter Information.

**What happens if the Non-Homestead Millage is not approved?** The revenue generated from the 18 mills totals approximately \$1.5 million annually, about 12% of the district's budget. If this millage does not pass, the Montabella Community Schools will be forced to reduce or cut programs to offset the \$1.5 million loss.

The non-homestead tax is crucial for ensuring that Montabella Community Schools receives the same funding as other districts in the state of Michigan.

**What does the ballot language look like?** "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)?"

**What should I do if I have more questions?** Contact us! We will be happy to answer your questions. You can reach out to Superintendent, Shelly Millis, at [smillis@montabella.com](mailto:smillis@montabella.com) or by calling her office at (989)427-5148.