



# **GIBRALTAR SCHOOL DISTRICT**

## **Non-Homestead Operating Millage Renewal & Sinking Fund Renewal**

**November 5, 2024**

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### **Frequently Asked Questions**

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

Visit [gibdist.net](http://gibdist.net) and click on  
School Election Info



# SCHOOL DISTRICT INFORMATION

## **ENROLLMENT**

Gibraltar School District's serves 3,665 K-12 students.

## **STAFFING**

Gibraltar School District employees 382 staff members

There are:

215 Teachers

6 GSRP

1 Special Ed Director

4 Special Ed Supervisors

2 Special Ed Secretaries

23 Bus drivers

11 Bus aides

33 Custodial/maintenance staff

8 Board Office Admin/Clerical

13 Building Admin

14 Secretaries

52 Paraprofessionals





# SCHOOL DISTRICT INFORMATION

## **NUMBER AND SQUARE FOOTAGE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES**

Gibraltar School District operates seven school facilities that cover approximately 491,225 sq. ft. square feet.

## **ROOF SQUARE FOOTAGE**

The Gibraltar School District maintains approximately 454,000 square feet of roofing (spread over seven school buildings).

## **A BREAKDOWN BY BUILDINGS:**

**Carlson High School-** Built in 1981, with a total of 212,578 sq. ft.

Lakeshore Virtual School included.

**Shumate Middle School-** Built in 1960, with a total of 112,747 sq. ft.

**Chapman Elementary School-** Built in 1960, with a total of 45,300 sq. ft.

**Weiss Elementary School-** Built in 1980, with a total of 32,800 sq. ft.

**Hunter Elementary School-** Built in 1973, with a total of 50,000 sq. ft.

**Parsons Elementary School-** Built in 1951, with a total of 37,800 sq. ft.





# BALLOT PROPOSAL INFORMATION

## WHAT IS ON THE BALLOT?

There are two proposals on the November 5, 2024 ballot.

- 1** The first proposal is a renewal of the non-homestead operating millage that all Michigan school districts must levy to receive their full foundation allowance (state aid).
- 2** The second proposal is a 10-year sinking fund millage renewal and restoration.

## WHEN IS THE ELECTION?

The election will be held on November 5, 2024. The polls will be open from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m. Absentee ballots will be available to voters after September 26, 2024.

## RENEWING THE NON-HOMESTEAD OPERATING MILLAGE

### HOW MUCH REVENUE WILL THE NON-HOMESTEAD OPERATING MILLAGE GENERATE?

The non-homestead operating millage is projected to generate \$3.6 million of a \$52 million budget during the 2025 school year.

### WHAT IS A NON-HOMESTEAD MILLAGE?

The non-homestead millage supports the school district's general operating budget, which covers everything necessary to provide educational programs and services in the Gibraltar School District.

**All school districts in Michigan must levy 18 mills on non-homestead property to receive their full foundation allowance.**

### IS THE NON-HOMESTEAD MILLAGE LEVIED ON PRIMARY RESIDENCES?

The non-homestead operating millage is NOT levied on primary residences (the home in which a homeowner lives); it only applies to businesses, second homes, vacant land, and rental property.



## RENEWING THE NON-HOMESTEAD OPERATING MILLAGE

### **IF THE NON-HOMESTEAD MILLAGE DOES NOT APPLY TO TAXPAYERS WHO LIVE IN THEIR PRIMARY RESIDENCE, WHY CAN ALL REGISTERED VOTERS LIVING IN THE GIBRALTAR SCHOOL DISTRICT VOTE ON THIS PROPOSAL?**

All registered voters living in the Gibraltar School District can vote on the non-homestead millage proposal because it is a school district millage. School district millages are funded by property taxes, but they are not limited to property owners. This is also how the Michigan Legislature wrote the law in 1994.

### **WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF VOTERS DON'T APPROVE THE NON-HOMESTEAD OPERATING MILLAGE?**

All Michigan school districts must ask voters to approve an 18-mill non-homestead property millage. If school districts don't follow this procedure established by the Michigan Legislature, they **will not** receive their full foundation allowance. The foundation allowance supports the school district's general operating budget which provides essential educational programs and services in Gibraltar School District.

### **IF SCHOOL DISTRICTS CAN ONLY LEVY 18 MILLS, WHY DOES THE PROPOSAL ASK VOTERS TO APPROVE A 21-MILL NON-HOMESTEAD RENEWAL MILLAGE?**

In all Michigan school districts, the 18 mill non-homestead levy is subject to rollbacks per the Headlee Amendment to the Michigan Constitution. While school districts cannot levy more than 18 mills on non-homestead property, Gibraltar School District is requesting approval of a 21-mill non-homestead renewal to protect against future rollbacks when they occur.



# RENEWING THE NON-HOMESTEAD OPERATING MILLAGE

## WHAT IS THE EXACT BALLOT LANGUAGE OF THE NON-HOMESTEAD OPERATING MILLAGE RENEWAL PROPOSAL?

Below is the exact ballot language for the non-homestead operating millage proposal.

GIBRALTAR SCHOOL DISTRICT  
COUNTY OF WAYNE  
STATE OF MICHIGAN

### OPERATING MILLAGE RENEWAL PROPOSAL

The non-homestead is not levied on the home in which a homeowner lives.

The non-homestead renewal was previously approved by voters 10 years ago.

This proposal will renew and restore the authority last approved by the electors in 2014 and which expires with the 2024 levy for the School District to levy the statutory limit of 18 mills on all property, except principal residences and other property exempted by law and allow the School District to continue to levy the statutory limit of 18 mills in the event of future Headlee rollbacks of up to 3 mills. The authorization will allow the School District to continue to receive revenues at the full per pupil foundation allowance permitted by the State.

The non-homestead is being renewed for another 10 years.

Shall the limitation on the total amount of taxes which may be assessed against all property, except principal residences and other property exempted by law, situated within the Gibraltar School District be increased, in the amount of 21 mills with 18 mills being the maximum allowable levy (\$18.00 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation), for a period of ten (10) years, 2025 to 2034, inclusive? This operating millage if approved and levied, would provide estimated revenues to the School District of \$3,600,000 during the 2025 calendar year, to be used for general operating purposes.

Renewal of the 21 mills protects the school district from Headlee rollbacks and a reduction in state aid funding.

The non-homestead provides \$3,600,000 to the operating budget, which supports the entire educational program and pays for everything, including teachers and staff, classroom supplies, technology, heat, water, electricity, transportation services, and programs that support student learning.

YES

NO



## RENEWING THE SINKING FUND MILLAGE

The second ballot proposal calls for the renewal and restoration of a 10-year sinking fund millage to complete ongoing facility repairs and updates to Gibraltar school buildings. Voters originally approved the sinking fund in 2015. The sinking fund generates approximately \$415,000 annually for facility repairs and updates.

### **WHAT IS A SINKING FUND?**

A sinking fund is a pay-as-you-go method of funding upgrades and repairs to schools and facilities. Sinking funds can be used to purchase school property sites, construct or repair school buildings, improve school security, purchase and support student transportation vehicles, and acquire or upgrade technology.

### **CAN SINKING FUNDS BE USED FOR SCHOOL DISTRICT OPERATING EXPENSES?**

No. Sinking funds cannot be used for operating expenses, salaries, employee benefits, or routine building maintenance. By state law, projects paid for through a sinking fund must be reviewed by the Michigan Department of Treasury and audited annually.

### **WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF VOTERS DO NOT APPROVE THE SINKING FUND PROPOSAL?**

The sinking fund is projected to generate approximately \$415,000 in the 2025 school year. If residents do not approve the sinking fund, facility repairs, and updates will have to be postponed or, if possible, paid for through the school district's operational budget, reducing the revenue used to support the educational program and operate the school district.





## RENEWING THE SINKING FUND MILLAGE

### WHY IS THE SINKING FUND PROPOSAL A RENEWAL AND RESTORATION?

In November 2014, residents of Gibraltar School District first approved a 0.5 mill sinking fund proposal to pay for repairs and updates to school facilities. However, due to the Headlee Amendment to the Michigan Constitution, the 0.5 mill sinking fund has been rolled back to 0.4817 mills, reducing the amount of revenue the school district receives to complete school repairs and updates.

The November 5th ballot proposal requests that the sinking fund be restored to its original 0.5 mill rate for an additional ten years.

### WHAT WILL IT COST HOMEOWNERS TO RESTORE THE SINKING FUND MILLAGE TO ITS ORIGINAL RATE OF 0.5 MILLS?

Currently, the school district levies 0.4817 mills for the sinking fund. Restoring the sinking fund to the original amount will require a 0.0183 mill increase.

The millage rate is based on the taxable value of the home (typically 1/2 of what the home would sell for). Below are four examples of the cost if the millage rate is restored to the previously approved rate of 0.5 mills.

Home market value (Sale price of home)	Home taxable assessed value (Typically 1/2 of market value)	Cost at 0.4817 mills (Current rate)	Cost at 0.5 mills	Difference
\$100,000	\$50,000	\$24.09 per year	\$25.00 per year	\$0.91 per year
\$150,000	\$75,000	\$36.13 per year	\$37.50 per year	\$1.37 per year
\$200,000	\$100,000	\$48.17 per year	\$50.00 per year	\$1.83 per year
\$300,000	\$150,000	\$72.26 per year	\$75.00 per year	\$2.74 per year





# RENEWING THE SINKING FUND MILLAGE

## WHAT IS THE EXACT BALLOT LANGUAGE OF THE SINKING FUND MILLAGE RENEWAL?

Below is the exact ballot language for the sinking fund millage renewal.

GIBRALTAR SCHOOL DISTRICT  
COUNTY OF WAYNE  
STATE OF MICHIGAN

### BUILDING AND SITE SINKING FUND MILLAGE RENEWAL PROPOSAL

The sinking fund will renew for another 10 years and be restored to the original rate of 0.5 previously approved by voters.

The sinking fund was previously approved by voters 9 years ago.

This proposal will renew and restore the authority last approved by the electors in 2015 and which expires with the 2024 levy for the School District to levy a building and site sinking fund millage, the proceeds of which will be used to make improvements and repairs to the School District's facilities. The prior authorization of 0.50 mills has been permanently reduced to 0.4817 mills pursuant to the reduction required under the Michigan Constitution. Pursuant to State law, the expenditure of the building and site sinking fund millage proceeds must be audited, and the proceeds cannot be used for teacher, administrator or employee salaries, maintenance or other operating expenses.

The sinking fund has been reduced due to Headlee rollbacks resulting in reduced funding for facility repairs and improvements.

Shall the Gibraltar School District be authorized to levy 0.50 mills (\$0.50 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation), for a period of ten (10) years, being the years 2025 to 2034, inclusive, to create a building and site sinking fund to be used for the construction or repair of school buildings, school security improvements, the acquisition or upgrading of technology, the acquisition of student transportation vehicles, trucks and vans and parts, supplies and equipment used for the maintenance of these vehicles and for any other purposes permitted by law? This millage if approved and levied would provide estimated revenues to the School District of \$415,000 during the 2025 calendar year.

The sinking fund is a renewal for 10 years

YES

NO

By law, this is what sinking funds can be used for.



## RENEWING THE SINKING FUND MILLAGE

### **GIBRALTAR VOTERS JUST APPROVED A BOND PROPOSAL, WHY DOES THE SCHOOL DISTRICT NEED TO RENEW THE SINKING FUND?**

Bond proposal projects are for a set scope of large-scale projects.

The sinking fund renewal will fund small-scale projects and continue to keep Gibraltar School District facilities up-to-date and in good working order.

### **HOW WILL SINKING FUND PROJECTS BE IDENTIFIED?**

Each year, the Gibraltar School District administrative team and the Board of Education complete a facility review process to identify short- and long-term facility needs. This review process will be used to identify projects to be completed during the ten-year life of the sinking fund.

### **WHAT TYPE OF FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS HAVE BEEN COMPLETED OVER THE LAST 10 YEARS WITH SINKING FUND REVENUE?**

Facility improvements from the sinking fund revenue include (and not limited to); roof replacement at Hunter Elementary, mechanical replacements, turf and field event replacement, and bathroom repairs.



## RENEWING THE SINKING FUND MILLAGE

### **HOW WILL THE PROPOSALS BENEFIT RESIDENTS WHO DON'T HAVE STUDENTS ATTENDING GIBRALTAR SCHOOL DISTRICT?**

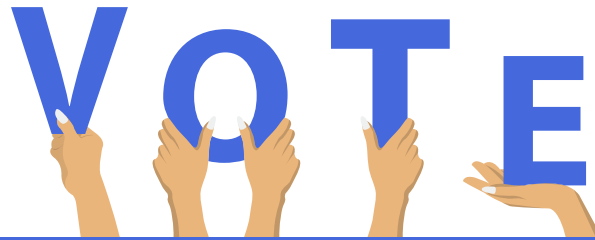
School district facilities and sites are regularly used by community members who do not have school-age children.

Gibraltar School District takes pride in its role as an important community resource and partner. The value and vitality of a community depend on the quality and marketability of its schools. National research shows that communities with well-maintained schools have higher local property values.

### **A YES VOTE TYPICALLY MEANS THAT A VOTER SUPPORTS A BALLOT PROPOSAL. IS THAT THE CASE IN THIS ELECTION?**

Yes. Voters who support the Gibraltar School District sinking fund millage and non-homestead operating millage renewal proposals should vote YES; voters who oppose the ballot proposals should vote NO.





## INFORMATION ABOUT VOTING...

### **WHO CAN VOTE IN THE ELECTION?**

Residents of Gibraltar School District who will be 18 years of age or older on Election Day and are registered to vote can vote in this election.

### **WHERE CAN I GET INFORMATION ABOUT VOTING (SUCH AS HOW TO REGISTER, WHERE TO VOTE, ABSENTEE VOTING, AND NINE DAYS OF EARLY VOTING)?**

Go to the Michigan Voter Information website ([www.michigan.gov/vote](http://www.michigan.gov/vote)) or call your local clerk's office.

### **DO I NEED TO UPDATE MY VOTER REGISTRATION?**

Yes, if you have changed your name or address since the last time you voted. You can do this at any Secretary of State Office or your local clerk's office.

### **CAN I VOTE BY ABSENTEE BALLOT?**

Registered voters do not need a reason to vote by absentee ballot. Request an absentee ballot application from your clerk's office or by going online to [www.michigan.gov/vote](http://www.michigan.gov/vote) and clicking on **Vote at home**.

Absentee ballots will be available to voters after September 26 and can be cast through Election Day.

### **WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE BALLOT PROPOSALS?**

- Visit [gibdist.net](http://gibdist.net) and click on School Election Info
- Contact Amy Conway, Superintendent of schools
  - Phone: 734-379-6351
  - Email: [conwaya@gibdist.net](mailto:conwaya@gibdist.net)

