

How mills will impact your tax bill

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tax credit and another \$12 as a federal income tax deduction (based on a 20 percent deduction).

The net amount paid by a taxpayer with an \$80,000 house would be \$12, according to city officials. That breaks down to \$1 a month and 3 cents a day.

The same type of example can be applied to a senior citizen who owns a house or condominium selling for \$58,000 and assessed at \$28,000.

Applied against the \$28,000 assessment, the proposed 1.5 mills would cost the senior citizen \$42 annually. But the senior citizen may deduct \$12 under the Senior Citizen Michigan Homestead Credit. Consequently, the net cost for

the senior citizen in this example for the city's capital improvements would be zero.

The proposed additional 1.5 mills would not be levied until next July. Council has the option of levying less than 1.5 mills.

Unlike a special millage which stands separate of a city's charter limit, the proposed amendment would create a new section in the charter.

COUNCIL MEMBERS agreed to ask voters to amend the charter because without the extension of the millage limit, future councils would have to ask for a charter amendment when general millage (operating and debt) needs to be increased to pay the bills.

With the city's current 8-mill levy,

the additional 1.5 mills for capital improvements would bring the total tax levy to 9.5 mills.

That would leave future councils with only a .5-mill leeway for operations and debt.

On the other side of the coin, the city already has the authority, under the city charter, to levy the additional 1.5 mills for capital improvements.

The proposed additional millage would be earmarked totally for projects listed in a six-year capital improvements plan.

Required by the state, the improvements program provides city officials with a guideline of needed projects. The projects are listed on a year-to-

year basis. Each year the plan will be updated and another year of planned projects added.

The charter amendment proposal will appear on the Nov. 6 ballot as follows:

Shall the city charter of the city of Farmington Hills be amended to permit the levy of additional taxes not exceeding 0.15 percent (1.5 mills) of state equalized value for a period of 20 years, the taxes to be used only for capital improvement projects within the city?

A "yes" vote means approval of the proposed charter amendment. A "no" vote means opposition to the proposal.

Moped upset

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police would continue "to give extra patrol" in the Wooddale area.

"THE SITUATION with that school is that it's set back in the subdivision and it's surrounded by woods," Murphy said. "It's a good place for kids to congregate."

"Sometimes that creates problems... sometimes the older kids intimidate the younger ones."

Murphy stressed that moped drivers "must obey all the same safety rules as an automobile driver would."

He stressed that riders must wear helmets at all times and have a proper light if they intend to ride at night.

Farmington's Public Safety Department also has been having problems with teen-agers on mopeds, a spokesman said.

"It's generally been a problem," said Officer Mike Wiechert. "We try to keep an eye on them as best we can."



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