

CITY COUNCIL ACTION REPORT

September 4, 2008

TO: The Honorable Mayor and City Council Members

FROM: Phillip L. Nelson, City Manager
John M. Lamerato, Assistant City Manager/Finance & Administration
Brian P. Murphy, Assistant City Manager/Economic Development Services
Tonni L. Bartholomew, City Clerk

SUBJECT: Informational Brochure for the November 2008 General Election

Attached is an informational brochure prepared by City management to distribute to all households with registered voters in Troy in advance of the General Election in November.

As directed by Council, staff is submitting the informational brochure to Council for approval of the content in advance of distributing to the voters of Troy.

For reference, absentee ballots are anticipated to be mailed September 29, 2008. In the past the City has endeavored to send out and provide informational brochures in advance of the absentee ballots mailing in an effort to avoid late distribution to absentee voters.

 City of Troy 	<p data-bbox="665 130 966 310"> City Clerk's Office 500 W. Big Beaver Troy, MI 48084 (248) 524-3316 elections@troymi.gov </p>	<p data-bbox="1117 172 1469 277" style="text-align: center;"> INFORMATIONAL BROCHURE </p>
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• GENERAL ELECTION DATES TO REMEMBER

Election Day

Tuesday, November 4, 2008
Polls are open from 7:00 AM until 8:00 PM

Last Day to Register to Vote

Monday, October 6, 2008
The City Clerk's Office will be open on Saturday, November 1, 2008 from 10:00 AM until 2:00 PM for absentee balloting

• THE BALLOT QUESTION

Charter Amendment Proposal 08-1: An initiatory petition to amend the Troy City Charter by adding Section 9.16.5.

Shall Section 9.16.5 regarding Millage Rate Levy Limitation be added to the Troy City Charter as follows:

“Section 9.16.5. The Council shall not increase the millage rate imposed pursuant to Section 9.16 of this charter above a current rate actually imposed, levied, and collected unless the increased rate shall first be approved by a majority of the City electors voting on the question.”? Yes ___ or No ___?

YES A YES vote means that the 2009 City of Troy maximum allowable Operating and Capital Millage Rate will be reduced from the Headlee limited 8.5076 mills to a rate that shall not be higher than 8.1000 mills. Based on a letter from the Attorney General's office, the 2010 and beyond millage rates are unknown at this time.

NO A NO vote means that the City Council may by Charter authorization levy up to a Headlee reduced maximum of 8.5076 mills. (Currently the City Council has approved a levy of 8.1000 mills.)



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INFORMATIONAL BROCHURE

• ABOUT THE INITIATORY PETITION

A citizen- initiated petition proposing that the City Charter be amended was circulated in Troy and received the required 2,751 signatures to place a proposed amendment to the Troy City Charter on the November 4, 2008 General Election ballot.

As required by Michigan Law, the submittal was forwarded to the Governor for her approval of the ballot language. The proposed language was also submitted to the Attorney General's Office for review.

Communications from both offices have noted an inconsistency with Public Act 279 of 1909, MCL 117.1 to MCL 117.38 (Michigan Compiled Laws). The Attorney General's Office concluded that the proposal is not consistent with this Public Act. However, Section 22 of the Home Rule City Act provides that all amendments submitted by initiatory petition are required to be submitted to the voters.

The Governor did not approve the ballot language.

• QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Does this ballot proposal limit all of the millage levied by the City of Troy?

The City of Troy currently levies 8.1000 mills for Operating and Capital; 0.6800 mills for Refuse collection; and 0.5000 mills for Debt Service, for a total of 9.2800 mills. This ballot proposal only affects the 8.1000 mills levied for Operating and Capital.

Will this charter amendment have an effect on the City's AAA bond rating?

The City has been advised by our financial advisors that our AAA bond rating would be in jeopardy if this amendment passes which would result in higher interest rates on future borrowings and limit our savings on any potential refunding issues.

How can the millage rate be increased in future years?

If this proposal passes, the millage rate could be increased by a City Council initiated ballot question that is approved by a majority of registered City of Troy voters. The millage rate could be increased in future years if the City Charter is amended by the voters.

How would this proposal affect the budget process?

The millage rate is determined by dividing the revenue necessary for Operations/Capital by the total taxable value of the City. One effect of the proposed amendment on budget preparation would be receipt of the City levy information and timing of election dates.

As part of the millage rate determination, the City Assessor provides the amount of total taxable value for the fiscal year. The Assessor certifies the total taxable value at the end of March. The total taxable value is a crucial number in the development of the City's budget. Once the total taxable value is known the millage rate can be determined and thus the City budget is presented for a vote by the City Council by the third Monday in May, as required by the City Charter.

Should the millage rate require a confirmation or increase, passage would be required by the voters. There is insufficient time to place the question to the voters prior to the City Charter mandated budget adoption date. Michigan Election Law provides 4 dates annually on which a Special Election may be called. Those dates are the 3rd Tuesday in February and the 1st Tuesday after the 1st Monday in May, August and November. The estimated cost of a Special Election is \$75,000 (with consolidated precincts) which would be born entirely by the City of Troy.



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• QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS, CONTINUED

What millages make up my total millage rate?

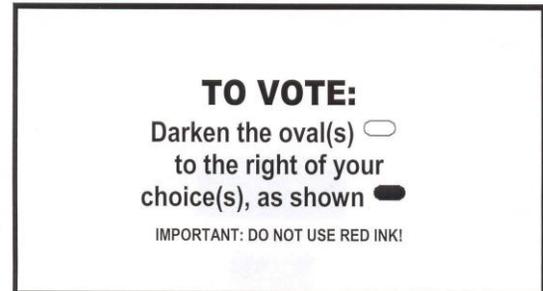
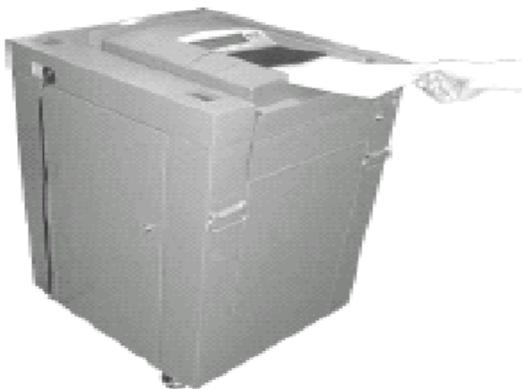
The total property tax bill is divided into 8 different taxing entities. Those entities are:

City of Troy	9.2800 mills
Troy School District;	9.4156 mills
State Education Tax	6.0000 mills
Oakland County Government	4.6461 mills
Oakland County Transportation Authority (SMART)	0.5900 mills
Oakland Intermediate Schools	3.3690 mills
Oakland County Community College	1.5844 mills
Oakland County Zoo Tax	0.1000 mills



• ABOUT THE VOTING EQUIPMENT

The City of Troy will be utilizing the M100 optical scan voting devices shown below in all precincts and for Absent Voters, effective with the November 4, 2008 City Regular General Election. To vote, fill in the oval as shown below.



Please contact the City Clerk's Office if you have any questions or if you would like a demonstration of the equipment.



City of
Troy

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INFORMATIONAL BROCHURE



Voting Precinct Map

PRECINCT	ADDRESS	LOCATION	MAP ID
1	2601 E SQUARE LAKE	EVANGELICAL CHURCH OF GOD	A
2	1825 E SQUARE LAKE	KENNINGTON COMMUNITY CHURCH	B
3	6600 ROCHESTER	WOODSIDE BIBLE CHURCH	C
4	180 E SQUARE LAKE	ST ELIZABETH ANN SETON CATHOLIC CHURCH	H
5	4710 CROOKS	FAITH APOSTOLIC CHURCH	D
6	9685 COOLIDGE HWY	TROY NATURE CENTER	E
7	3500 ADAMS	ST STEPHEN EPISCOPAL CHURCH	F
8	1100 W LONG LAKE	NORTHFIELD HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH	S
9	320 E SQUARE LAKE	ST ELIZABETH ANN SETON CATHOLIC CHURCH	H
10	1825 E SQUARE LAKE	KENNINGTON COMMUNITY CHURCH	B
11	2601 E SQUARE LAKE	EVANGELICAL CHURCH OF GOD	A
12	6600 ROCHESTER	WOODSIDE BIBLE CHURCH	C
13	2075 E LONG LAKE	BETHESDA ROMANIAN PENTECOSTAL CHURCH	I
14	4571 JOHN R	ST ANASTASIA CATHOLIC CHURCH	J
15	100 E WATTLES	ST LUCY CROATIAN CHURCH	O
16	4328 LIVERMOS	FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH	K
17	760 W WATTLES	ST NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH	L
18	3500 ADAMS	ST STEPHEN EPISCOPAL CHURCH	F
19	3245 COOLIDGE	ST ALAN CATHOLIC CHURCH	Q
20	760 W WATTLES	ST NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH	L
21	200 E WATTLES	ST LUCY CROATIAN CHURCH	O
22	4571 JOHN R	ST ANASTASIA CATHOLIC CHURCH	J
23	2442 E BIG BEAVER	ST JOSEPH CHALDEAN CATHOLIC CHURCH	P
24	3160 E MAPLE	ST GEORGE ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH	R
25	3160 E MAPLE	ST GEORGE ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH	B
26	3179 LIVERMOS	TROY COMMUNITY CENTER	N
27	3179 LIVERMOS	TROY COMMUNITY CENTER	N
28	3245 COOLIDGE	ST ALAN CATHOLIC CHURCH	Q
29	3160 N ADAMS	NORTH HILLS CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH	M
30	3179 LIVERMOS	TROY COMMUNITY CENTER	N
31	9685 COOLIDGE HWY	TROY NATURE CENTER	E