



## CITY COUNCIL ACTION ITEM

Date: December 1, 2009

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: John Szerlag, City Manager  
Lori Grigg Bluhm, City Attorney  
Tonni L. Bartholomew, City Clerk

SUBJECT: February 23, 2010 Special Election Millage Question Brochure

### **Background:**

At their Regular meeting on Monday, November 23, 2009, the City Council scheduled a Special Election on February 23, 2010, for the purpose of placing a New 1.9 Millage Rate question before the voters. At that same meeting, City Council approved the ballot millage question language.

As with previous ballot questions, City Administration drafted a brochure to further explain the ballot question in an unbiased manner. The brochure includes the approved ballot language, general voting instructions, Frequently Asked Questions, and impacts of a "Yes" and a "No" vote.

In order to have the brochure mailed at the same time as the first Absentee Voter Ballots or slightly before such mailing, your immediate review is required. This is especially true, since the holidays could cause further delays.

A copy of the proposed brochure is attached for review and Council action.

**Vote**

City of Troy  
500 W Big Beaver  
Troy, MI 48084-5285

February 23, 2010 Election  
Informational Brochure  
For the Registered Voters at:

NONPROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
TROY, MI  
PERMIT NO. 19



**CITY OF TROY GENERAL ELECTION DATES:**

**Election Day: Tuesday, February 23, 2010**

Polls are open from **7:00 AM** until **8:00 PM**

**Last day to Register to Vote:** Monday, January 25, 2010

**The City Clerk's Office will be open:**

**Saturday, February 20, 2010—10:00 AM** until **2:00 PM**  
for ABSENTEE BALLOTING

**CITY OF TROY GENERAL OPERATING MILLAGE PROPOSAL**

**THE CITY COUNCIL WOULD BE AUTHORIZED TO LEVY UP TO 1.9 MILLS WITH THE SUCCESSFUL PASSAGE OF THE FOLLOWING QUESTION:**

Shall the City of Troy levy new additional millage of up to 1.9 mills against all taxable property for a five-year period of time, 2010 through 2014, for general operating purposes, including public safety and quality of life purposes? 1.9 mills are equal to \$1.90 on each \$1,000.00 of taxable value. If approved, the additional millage levied will raise approximately \$9,129,000.00 the first year it is levied.

YES \_\_\_ NO \_\_\_

**NOTE:**

If you are unsure of your precinct location, need an Absentee Ballot or have any other questions, please contact the Troy City Clerk's Office at: (248) 524-3316 or [elections@troymi.gov](mailto:elections@troymi.gov)

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### Why is there a Special Millage Election?

- ◆ The City of Troy is facing significant decline in its revenue stream every year for the next several years, primarily due to market conditions lowering property assessments and State Shared Revenue cuts.
- ◆ The 2008 City Charter amendment to Section 9.16.5 removed City Council's ability to increase the millage rate within the Charter allowable maximum rate without an affirmative vote of the Troy electors.
- ◆ The City Budget adoption process has timing restrictions that adversely impact the placement of the millage question on an August Primary or November General Election ballot.

### How long will my tax bill have the increased millage rate if the proposal is passed?

- ◆ The City Council will only be authorized to levy the additional millage of up to 1.9 mills for five years.

### Does the City Council have to levy the full 1.9 mills for all five years?

- ◆ No, the City Council will determine the amount of the 1.9 mills needed to levy each year during the budget approval process.

### What efforts have been put in place to lessen the impact of the reduced revenue stream?

- ◆ The City of Troy reduced staff by 11.5% over the last 6 years.
- ◆ The City of Troy changed the retiree healthcare and benefit plans to allow for long-term savings to the City.
- ◆ The City of Troy and employee groups are pursuing options to reduce costs.
- ◆ The City of Troy continues to pursue outsourcing to reduce costs.

### How will the proposed 1.9 millage rate affect the average City of Troy residential tax bill?

- ◆ The average City of Troy tax bill in 2009 was \$1,114.
- ◆ The average City of Troy tax bill in 2010 will be \$996 without the proposed millage; a decrease of \$158 from the prior year.
- ◆ The average City of Troy tax bill in 2010 will be \$1,152 with the proposed millage; an increase of \$38 from the prior year.

### Where can I find additional information on the City of Troy Special Millage Election or 6-Year Organization Restructuring Plan?

- ◆ City of Troy Web Page: [www.troymi.gov/2010proposal](http://www.troymi.gov/2010proposal)
- ◆ Troy Today Quarterly Newsletter
- ◆ WTRY Troy Cable TV – WOW/channel 10 or Comcast/channel 53
- ◆ Archived City Council Meetings at <http://www.troymi.gov/Council/Meetings/Archive.aspx>

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YES \_\_\_ NO \_\_\_

#### A YES vote means:

- City Council could levy up to 1.9 mills to retain public safety services, such as police, fire and public works, and quality of life services, such as the library, community center, museum and nature center.
- Maintain high level of service in the Police Department.
- Maintain high level of service in the Fire Department.
- Maintain high level of service in the Public Works Department including 24-hour snow removal.
- Maintain activities at the Troy Public Library.
- Maintain activities at the Troy Museum.
- Maintain activities at the Lloyd A. Stage Nature Center.
- Maintain activities at the Troy Community Center.
- Maintain services many residents and businesses look for in a city.

#### A NO vote means:

- Many city services will be eliminated or downsized to meet the declining revenue stream.
- Lay-off Troy Police Department personnel and decrease police services.
- Lay-off Troy Fire Department personnel and decrease fire services.
- Lay-off public works personnel and decrease some public works services including 24-hour snow removal.
- Close the Troy Public Library and lay-off all personnel.
- Close the Troy Museum and lay-off all personnel.
- Close the Lloyd A. Stage Nature Center and lay-off all personnel.
- Close the Troy Community Center and lay-off all personnel.
- Reduce City services.