**Atlanta Community Schools places Non-Homestead Millage Renewal on Ballot**

**When voters in the Atlanta Community School District go to the polls on November 8, 2022, they will be asked to vote on two proposals: 1.) for the required School Operating Millage and 2.) Restoration Millage. These millages are critical funding for the District.**

**Is this new?**

**NO**. Schools have been required, since 1994 when Proposal A was passed, to approve 18 mills on non-homestead property. The Atlanta community voters have approved the 18 mills since 1994 and it was last approved on March 10, 2020 for four years.

**What are the specifics for two issues to vote on?**

The **first proposal** is to extend the current Operating Millage of 17.8043 mills for 5 years from 2025 through 2029. The current millage that was passed in 2020 is reduced from 18.00 mills due to inflation and the “Headlee” Rollback.

The **second proposal** is a Restoration Millage of up to 2.0 mills to make-up for any losses in the Operating Millage due to inflation and the “Headlee” Rollback. This millage could only be levied on the difference between the Operating Millage and 18.00 mills (this year that would have been 0.1957 mills). Between the two, it can never be higher than 18 mills. This millage would run for 7 years between 2023 – 2029. The millage is for 2 mills to cover any additional “Headlee” rollbacks in that period.

**How much is being lost by “Headlee” Rollback?**

In 2021, approximately $10,000 was lost and in 2022 approximately $20,000. Since the loss compounds, it is expected that $30,000 would be lost in 2023 for a total in three years of approximately $60,000.

**How much would this cost me?**

**It would not cost you anything on your primary (homestead) residence.** It would only be levied on non-homestead property like rental homes, vacation homes, some vacant property, and commercial/industrial property. For those properties, it would be a renewal of what was

approved in the past.

**What if these ballot issues are not approved?**

By law, to obtain the total foundation allowance per student, Atlanta Community Schools must collect a local “non-homestead” millage for 18 mills. The State reduces its obligation to districts by the amount less than 18 mills to the District. Therefore, it is critical to continue to collect a total of 18 mills on non-homestead property to attain full State funding.

**What if one ballot issue is approved but not the other?**

The District would not be able to operate without the funding of the 17.8043 mills since it is such a large portion of the budget. If the Restoration “Headlee” portion did not pass, the District would be able to operate, but would lose funding and would not receive the same amount of per pupil funding as other districts in the State of Michigan.

**Why ask now if it was just approved in 2020?**

State-wide elections are only voted on in August and November in “even” years and if the vote wasn’t held now, it would have to be a special election. Since School taxes are collected in the summer, the election would have to be held in the spring, 2024 or before and the District would have to pay for all of the costs including election workers. By holding the election in the General Election this November, the District pays very little for election workers, ballots, advertising, etc. These costs can be thousands of dollars.

**Ballot Proposal Language**

**Proposal One – Operating Millage Renewal**

*Shall the currently authorized rate limitation of 17.8043 mills ($17.8043 on each $1,000 of taxable valuation) on the amount of taxes which may be assessed against all property, except principal residence and other property exempted by law, in Atlanta Community School District, Montmorency County, Michigan, be renewed for a period of 5 years, 2025 to 2029, 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 $1,986,224 (this is a renewal of millage that will expire with the 2024 tax levy)?*

**Proposal Two – Operating Restoration Millage**

*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 Atlanta Community School District, Montmorency County, Michigan, be increased by 2 mills ($2.00 on each $1,000 of taxable valuation) for a period of 7 years, 2023 to 2029, 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 2023 is approximately $31,601 (this millage is to restore millage lost as a result of the reduction required by the Michigan Constitution of 1963 and will be levied only to the extent necessary to restore that reduction)?*

**QUESTIONS?????**

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