

MCC

MUSKEGON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Q & A

**OPERATING
MILLAGE
RESTORATION**

VOTE
AUGUST 4



OPERATING MILLAGE RESTORATION INFORMATION

What is on the ballot?

An operating millage restoration proposal to support learning environments, safety improvements, infrastructure upgrades, and long-term academic support for Muskegon Community College. The restoration calls for a 0.2980 additional millage to restore the operating millage back to the original amount approved by voters in 1993.



When is the election?

Tuesday, August 4, 2026.

Who is eligible to vote in this election?

All registered voters who are 18 years of age and live within Muskegon County are eligible to vote in this election.

Why is MCC asking to restore its operating millage?

The operating millage was originally approved by Muskegon County voters in 1993. A lot has changed in 30 years. In 1993, Muskegon Community College used mostly paper-based systems and had few modern safety tools. Today, we rely on digital technology for learning, operations, security, and student support. Restoring the millage would generate revenue to update learning environments, enhance safety, upgrade and replace outdated infrastructure, and support long-term planning for academic spaces and student areas. These needed improvements were recommended by TowerPinkster as part of MCC's 2024 Facilities Plan.

OPERATING MILLAGE RESTORATION INFORMATION

How will the restored revenue be used?

Funds would support facility and infrastructure upgrades, including academic spaces, safety improvements, roof replacements, and improved heating and cooling systems that date back to the 1960s. Student spaces and restrooms on the main campus would also be updated.

What projects will the millage funds pay for?

Proposed projects over the next five years include:

- Modern safety enhancements, including updated security cameras and secure building access
- Classroom technology upgrades to support relevant instruction and workforce training
- Replacement of heating and cooling systems (installed in the 1960's) and windows across multiple buildings
- Accessibility (ADA) upgrades to restrooms, classrooms, and offices to ensure full accessibility for all students, employees, and visitors
- Renovation of instructional and student-centered spaces, including lecture halls and community event locations
- Roof replacements, parking lot repaving, and exterior upgrades to protect infrastructure and improve safety and access



Did MCC seek community input prior to placing the operating millage restoration on the ballot?

Yes. Before placing the proposal on the ballot, a Michigan-based independent research firm conducted a community outreach initiative. Seventy-one percent (71%) of participants said they would support an operating millage restoration and provided over 1,500 individual comments. Areas for improvement include aging campus facilities, limited access to on-campus food options, advising capacity, communication, and limited course availability.

OPERATING MILLAGE RESTORATION INFORMATION

What is a millage?

A millage is the rate used to calculate property taxes that support local services, including community colleges.

One mill equals \$1 in tax for every \$1,000 of a property's taxable value.

For example, if a property has a taxable value of \$100,000, a 1-mill tax would equal \$100 per year.

Millages are used by community colleges like Muskegon Community College to fund campus facilities, equipment, operations, and learning spaces that support students and workforce training. Voters in the community decide whether to approve these millages.

In simple terms, a millage is the formula used to determine how much property tax is collected to support services the community values, including higher education opportunities close to home.

What is the cost of restoring the operating millage to the average Muskegon County homeowner?

Restoring the operating millage would cost the average owner of a home, with a market value of \$250,000, about \$37.25 per year. That is roughly ten cents a day.



Home Market Value	Home Taxable Value	Yearly Tax Increase
\$100,000	\$50,000	\$14.90
\$150,000	\$75,000	\$22.35
\$200,000	\$100,000	\$29.80
\$250,000	\$125,000	\$37.25

OPERATING MILLAGE RESTORATION INFORMATION

Is the operating millage a new tax?

Muskegon County voters originally approved the 2.4 mills operating millage in 1993. The 0.2980 is the amount reduced by the Headlee Amendment and the increase required to restore the MCC operating millage back to the original 2.4 mills.



How much revenue has the college lost because of Headlee rollbacks?

Headlee reductions have lowered the amount the college can collect each year. Restoring the millage would generate about \$2.1 million annually.



What is the Headlee Amendment?

The Headlee Amendment prevents automatic tax increases when property values rise faster than inflation. When that happens, the millage rate is rolled back. A community can vote to restore the original rate, as MCC is asking voters to do.

What happens if the millage is not restored?

Without the restored revenue, the college would need to delay and scale back improvements to learning spaces, building systems, and student areas.

How long would the restored millage last?

The additional operating millage is for 30 years.

OPERATING MILLAGE RESTORATION INFORMATION

Would the Headlee Rollback be applied to the new millage rate?

Yes. The Headlee Rollback will be applied to the new millage.

What is the exact ballot language of the operating millage restoration proposal?

Below is the exact legal language of the ballot proposal.

This ballot proposal authorizes a new additional millage of 0.2980 mills for Muskegon Community College to restore the total amount of mills that Muskegon Community College receives for its operating millage to the original 2.4 mills approved by voters under the applicable law in May of 1993. The Headlee Amendment has reduced this operating millage to the current 2.1020 mills.

Shall the limitation upon the total amount of taxes that may be levied against all taxable property within Muskegon County be increased by 0.2980 mills (\$0.2980 per \$1,000.00 of taxable value) for 30 years, beginning in 2026 and continuing through 2055 inclusive, to support learning environments, safety improvements, infrastructure upgrades, and long-term academic support for Muskegon Community College and other purposes authorized by law? Revenue from the proposal will be disbursed to the Muskegon Community College District and, to the extent required by law, a portion of the revenues will be captured by or disbursed to the brownfield redevelopment authorities of the City of Montague, City of Muskegon, City of Muskegon Heights, City of Norton Shores, City of Roosevelt Park, City of Whitehall, Fruitport Charter Township, and Whitehall Township. It is estimated that \$2,100,000.00 will be collected in the first year that the new additional millage is authorized and levied.

Where can voters get more information about the operating millage restoration proposal?

Residents with questions about the millage restoration proposal should

- visit www.muskegoncc.edu/millage
- contact Beth Dick, Chief Financial Officer, at Beth.Dick@muskegoncc.edu

OPERATING MILLAGE RESTORATION INFORMATION



Where can voters get more information about voting?

Voters can visit the [Muskegon County Clerk's website](#) or their local clerk's office for sample ballots, polling locations, and election details.

How will students benefit?

Students will enjoy comfortable and safe learning spaces with adequate technology, furnishings, equipment, lighting, and floor coverings. They will have adequate heat and air conditioning. It will be easier to access entrances, bathrooms, and classrooms on campus. Students will stay on campus to engage in learning and activities due to upgraded facilities that support food service.



Why doesn't MCC raise tuition to meet funding needs?

Community Colleges are operated through a combination of revenue from state aid, tuition, and property taxes. The State of Michigan allows only a certain percentage of tuition increases each year.

Does the operating millage pay for MI Reconnect, MI Community College Guarantee, and other in-district tuition-free programs?

No. The State of Michigan funds MI Reconnect, MI Community College Guarantee, and other in-district tuition-free scholarships. These programs offer free tuition to those who live within Muskegon County.

OPERATING MILLAGE RESTORATION INFORMATION

Does the operating millage pay for the Muskegon Area Promise?

No. The Muskegon Area Promise is funded through a combination of state support, local partnerships, and private contributions, not through Muskegon Community College's operating millage. The operating millage supports the day-to-day operations of the college, including instruction, student services, and the maintenance of safe facilities. While the Promise and other in-district tuition-free programs help reduce or eliminate tuition costs for students, they are separate from the operating millage and do not rely on it for funding.

Has MCC been a good steward of past millages?

Yes. The college has been accountable to taxpayers through public Board of Trustees meetings and reports. MCC frequently seeks grants and private donations to offset residents' tax requests and stretch millage and bond funds even further. For example, over \$2 million in private donations were received for the Sturris Technology Center, \$57,000 were donated to support the Health and Wellness Center, and \$144,000 helped pay for the renovation of the Art and Music Building.



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