



Frequently Asked Questions

Why does Washtenaw County need a dedicated senior millage

By 2030, 1 in 4 residents will be over the age of 60 and they will outnumber those under 18. Today, residents 60+ make up 21% of Washtenaw County's population, with 76,060 seniors. This demographic is the fastest-growing segment in the county. Thousands lack the financial means to fully care for themselves. The goal of a senior millage is for older adults to maintain the highest level of independence possible, safely and with dignity. This means ensuring that basic needs are met—no older adult in Washtenaw County should be hungry or suffer from poor nutrition. A senior's home should be safe and secure, with working utilities and free from pests. Older adults who struggle with chronic health and mental health needs and multiple problems will have a place to access the essential services they need to live independently. Key to good health is social connection and enrichment, which means supporting senior center programming and education. Providing services such as transportation and chore work can make a critical difference in a senior's ability to maintain an independent lifestyle.

When will the Millage question be on the ballot?

The millage will be on the the November 5, 2024 general election ballot and will read as follows:

Washtenaw County Proposal 3 Establishing an Older Persons Services Millage

Shall the limitation on the total amount of taxes which may be levied against taxable property within Washtenaw County, Michigan, be increased by up to 0.5000 mill (\$.50 per thousand dollars of taxable value) for a period of eight (8) years, 2024 to 2031, inclusive, as a new additional millage for the purpose of providing funding for activities and services for older persons in Washtenaw County? If approved and levied in full this millage will raise an estimated \$11,584,031 in the first year.

YES [] NO []

Do other Michigan counties have a Senior Millage?

Yes. 74 of Michigan's 83 counties have a dedicated Senior Millage.

How much will it cost me?

The proposed .5 millage would translate to \$0.50 per \$1,000 of taxable value, meaning a home with a taxable value of \$100,000 would contribute \$50 per year, or approximately \$4.15 per month.

Is there a duration for the millage

This is an 8-year millage.



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How much money will the Millage raise?

This millage will raise an estimated \$11,584,031 in the first year.

How will the money be used?

The proposed millage will provide crucial funding for a range of services that will keep seniors safe and enhance their quality of life. These services could include:

- **Safe, Secure, Supported Housing:** Providing essential support like food, grab bars, and chore work to allow seniors to stay safely in their own homes.
- **Transportation:** Ensuring seniors have reliable access to medical appointments, grocery stores, and recreation.
- **Health and Wellness Programs:** Providing customized support and advocacy for the unique needs of older adults with health conditions including dementia, Parkinson's, cancer, and depression as well as supporting their caregivers.
- **Social and Recreational Opportunities:** Reducing isolation by building connections at local community and senior centers, enriching the quality of life through social engagement, movement, lifelong learning, and intergenerational activities.

How will the funds be allocated?

The Board of Commissioners will approve a final allocation. From the 74 other counties in Michigan that have a dedicated senior millage, there are proven strategies for allocation of these funds and accountability standards to ensure quality, efficiency and desired outcomes. These will serve as excellent models to build from.

The Washtenaw County Commission on Aging will also assure citizen input into the selection of senior millage services to be funded.

What economic benefits will the community see?

The whole community benefits from the senior millage. There are cost savings in health care when issues are found and addressed earlier and more effectively. Caregivers are more able to support older adults at home, especially those in the “sandwich” generation, caring for children and parents, and face fewer financial challenges and are more able to maintain their work and family lives. Neighborhoods retain their value when homes are well kept and supported. Communities with robust services retain active, vibrant older adults, especially those who are affluent with disposable income spent in the community.

Where can I get more information?



Frequently Asked Questions

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SayYestoSeniorsWashtenaw>

Website: <https://sayyestoseniors.com>

Email: Sayyes2seniors@gmail.com

What can I do to help?

Tell all your friends and family to learn more about the millage and to vote their conscience. If you are a member of a community group that would like to learn more, let us know and we will be happy to make a presentation.