

Submitted by Eric Doster  
1/20/16

Since 1996, the Michigan Campaign Finance Act has prohibited a public body from using public resources (not private resources) from influencing an election. In Public Act 31 of 2012, this policy was codified as follows:

"Enacting section 1. It is the policy of this state that a public body shall maintain strict neutrality in each election and that a public body or a person acting on behalf of a public body shall not attempt to influence the outcome of an election held in the state. If there is a perceived ambiguity in the interpretation of section 57, that section shall be construed to best effectuate the policy of strict neutrality by a public body in an election."

Before Public Act 269 of 2015, a public body could violate "strict neutrality" by advocating for a local ballot question, but still not violate the Michigan Campaign Finance Act by merely avoiding the use of the words of "express advocacy". Public Act 269 of 2015 does nothing more than close this "express advocacy" loophole and maintains the longstanding policy of "strict neutrality."

1. <https://www.bloomfield.org/board-of-education/millage-renewal>

"A reduction in the budget of nearly 50% would force the administration and Board of Education to make dramatic reductions across the spectrum of opportunities now offered to students. Services such as busing, programs such as art, music, and sports, co-curricular and extra-curricular activities and numerous elective classes would come under scrutiny and might need to be cut or drastically reduced."

"As required by law, voters must approve a renewal of the Hold Harmless Millage every 10 years. There will be no change in the way taxes are calculated or collected."

"The millage renewal is for funds needed each year for operational ongoing school programs, staff, supplies, utilities, buses, etc."

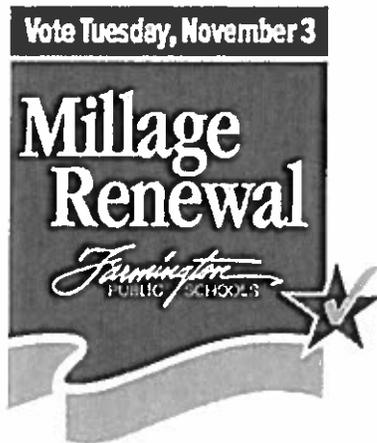
2. <http://www.farmington.k12.mi.us/millage2015/>

VIDEO [0:42] "We have an area on our website that you can click on to get further information. We look forward to your support."

[https://www.farmington.k12.mi.us/millage2015/pdf/millage\\_faqs.pdf](https://www.farmington.k12.mi.us/millage2015/pdf/millage_faqs.pdf)

"The renewal will ensure the continuation of Farmington Public Schools' excellent

educational program.



\*Vote with Green check mark.

3. [http://www.troy.k12.mi.us/apps/pages/index.jsp?type=d&uREC\\_ID=363152&pREC\\_ID=837246](http://www.troy.k12.mi.us/apps/pages/index.jsp?type=d&uREC_ID=363152&pREC_ID=837246)  
<https://d3jc3ahdjad7x7.cloudfront.net/UQG1VERqH9ITbEUb5tmZBWMRVM4J1rVVyiRI1TQkcwCB3UIF.pdf>

"This proposal is critically important to our schools and our community."

4. <http://www.fhgov.com/Government/Current-Programs-Initiatives/Public-Safety-Millage-Brochure.aspx>

"Maintain Excellence in Public Safety"

"Maintain Pride in Our Community"

"Maintain Staffing Levels in the City's Award-Winning Public Safety Team"

"Maintain the High Quality of Life in Farmington Hills"

5. <https://dearbornschools.org/news/359-hold-harmless-renewal-will-keep-dearborn-public-schools-programs-in-place>

HEADLINE: "Hold Harmless Renewal Will Keep Dearborn Public Schools Programs In Place"

"The Dearborn Public Schools will ask voters to renew the Hold Harmless millage on the November ballot."

"The Hold Harmless RENEWAL will keep the positive momentum and success moving forward."

6. [http://www.howelllibrary.org/library\\_millage\\_proposal\\_vote\\_august\\_6.htm](http://www.howelllibrary.org/library_millage_proposal_vote_august_6.htm)

"Library Millage Proposal - Vote August 6!

\*For an additional 58 cents per week (based on average home value), YOU can save our library for years to come!"

7. <http://www.mattawanschools.org/cms/lib011/MI01000487/Centricity/Domain/566/VoteNov4-Tri%20Fold%20Brochure.pdf>

"These students are the future of our community. Let's make sure they have the right educational tools."

8. <https://www.bedford.k12.mi.us/technology.html>

"The renewal of the Technology Millage is critical to the continued success of our Bedford students.

**MAKE A NOTE & VOTE!**

Look for more information to come and remember to vote on May 3, 2016!"