

**Approval of Proposed Charter and Ballot Language
Police, Fire and Emergency Medical Service
Public Safety Millage Renewal**

July 8, 2021

The Honorable Mayor Fournier and
Members of the City Commission:

At the November 6, 2012, and the November 8, 2016, elections the electors of the city of Royal Oak approved a five-year tax levy of up to 3.975 mills to support police, fire, and emergency medical services. The levy will expire December 1, 2022.

The administration is seeking to place a renewal question before the electors on the November 2, 2021, ballot. The proposed charter amendment at chapter 8, section 11, subsection (c), would provide the city with the authority to continue to levy up to 3.975 mills for five years starting with the December 2022 tax roll. The language for the ballot as been informally reviewed by the Michigan Office of the Attorney General.

The current charter language reads as follows:

Chapter 8. General Finances, Section 11.

(a) The total amount of general ad valorem taxes imposed upon real and tangible personal property in the City in any one year, for the purpose of defraying the general expenses and liabilities of the City, exclusive of levies necessary for payment of principal and interest on any bonded indebtedness of the City, shall not exceed 11 mills on each dollar of the assessed valuation of such property, except as otherwise permitted by law or by this Charter.

(b) In addition to the amount set forth in Subsection (a) above, the City may, for the sole purpose of defraying the general expenses and liabilities of the City for refuse collection, disposal and for a curbside recycling program, raise by a general tax upon the assessed value of all real estate and personal property in the City, a millage for a period not to exceed five years up to 1.00 mill, said tax to be assessed and spread beginning on the first day of July, 2012, pursuant to the provisions of chapter eleven of this Charter.

(c) In addition to the amount set forth in Subsections (a) and (b) above, the City may, for the sole purpose of defraying the general expenses and liabilities of the City for police, fire and emergency medical services, raise by a general tax upon the assessed value of all real estate and personal property in the City, a millage for a period of not to exceed five years up to 3.975 mills, said tax to be assessed and spread beginning on the first day of December, 2017, pursuant to the provisions of chapter eleven of this Charter.



If the proposed amendment is approved by the voters, the Charter would read as follows (changes underlined and highlighted):

Chapter 8. General Finances, Section 11.

(a) The total amount of general ad valorem taxes imposed upon real and tangible personal property in the City in any one year, for the purpose of defraying the general expenses and liabilities of the City, exclusive of levies necessary for payment of principal and interest on any bonded indebtedness of the City, shall not exceed 11 mills on each dollar of the assessed valuation of such property, except as otherwise permitted by law or by this Charter.

(b) In addition to the amount set forth in subsection (a) above, the City may, for the sole purpose of defraying the general expenses and liabilities of the City for refuse collection, disposal and for a curbside recycling program, raise by a general tax upon the assessed value of all real estate and personal property in the City, a millage for a period not to exceed five years up to 1.00 mill, said tax to be assessed and spread beginning on the first day of July, 2012, pursuant to the provisions of chapter eleven of this Charter.

(c) In addition to the amount set forth in Subsections (a) and (b) above, the City may, for the sole purpose of defraying the general expenses and liabilities of the City for police, fire and emergency medical services, raise by a general tax upon the assessed value of all real estate and personal property in the City, a millage for a period of not to exceed five years up to 3.975 mills, said tax to be assessed and spread beginning on the first day of December, **2022**, pursuant to the provisions of chapter eleven of this Charter.

Should the city commission wish to present this proposal to the electorate, the following resolution would be appropriate:

Be it resolved, the city commission adopts with an affirmative vote of at least 3/5 of its members (5 of 7) the suggested changes to the Charter as specified below; and

Current Charter Language:

Chapter 8. General Finances, Section 11.

(a) The total amount of general ad valorem taxes imposed upon real and tangible personal property in the City in any one year, for the purpose of defraying the general expenses and liabilities of the City, exclusive of levies necessary for payment of principal and interest on any bonded indebtedness of the City, shall not exceed 11 mills on each dollar of the assessed valuation of such property, except as otherwise permitted by law or by this Charter.

(b) In addition to the amount set forth in Subsection (a) above, the City may, for the sole purpose of defraying the general expenses and liabilities of the City for refuse collection, disposal and for a curbside recycling program, raise by a general tax upon the assessed value of all real estate and personal property in the City, a millage for a period not to exceed five years up to 1.00 mill, said tax to be assessed and spread beginning on the first day of July, 2012, pursuant to the provisions of chapter eleven of this Charter.

(c) In addition to the amount set forth in Subsections (a) and (b) above, the City may, for the sole purpose of defraying the general expenses and liabilities of the City for police, fire and emergency medical services, raise by a general tax upon the assessed value of all real estate and personal property in the City, a millage for a period of not to exceed five years up to 3.975 mills, said tax to be assessed and spread beginning on the first day of December, 2017, pursuant to the provisions of chapter eleven of this Charter.

If Adopted by the Electorate:

Chapter 8. General Finances, Section 11.

(a) The total amount of general ad valorem taxes imposed upon real and tangible personal property in the City in any one year, for the purpose of defraying the general expenses and liabilities of the City, exclusive of levies necessary for payment of principal and interest on any bonded indebtedness of the City, shall not exceed 11 mills on each dollar of the assessed valuation of such property, except as otherwise permitted by law or by this Charter.

(b) In addition to the amount set forth in Subsection (a) above, the City may, for the sole purpose of defraying the general expenses and liabilities of the City for refuse collection, disposal and for a curbside recycling program, raise by a general tax upon the assessed value of all real estate and personal property in the City, a millage for a period not to exceed five years up to 1.00 mill, said tax to be assessed and spread beginning on the first day of July, 2012, pursuant to the provisions of chapter eleven of this Charter.

(c) In addition to the amount set forth in Subsections (a) and (b) above, the City may, for the sole purpose of defraying the general expenses and liabilities of the City for police, fire and emergency medical services, raise by a general tax upon the assessed value of all real estate and personal property in the City, a millage for a period of not to exceed five years up to 3.975 mills, said tax to be assessed and spread beginning on the first day of December, 2022, pursuant to the provisions of chapter eleven of this Charter.

Be it further resolved, the city clerk shall transmit a copy of the proposal and this resolution to the Governor and to the Attorney General of the State of Michigan for review and approval; and

Be it further resolved, the city clerk shall publish the current text of the sections of the charter proposed for amendment or deletion and the proposed text of the charter amendments and changes in accordance to Michigan law; and

Be it further resolved, once approved by the governor, the proposed charter amendment proposal be placed before the electors at a general election scheduled for Tuesday, November 2, 2022:

CHARTER PROPOSAL

Proposal A

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO CHAPTER 8, SECTION 11 OF THE ROYAL OAK CITY CHARTER TO ALLOW FOR A POLICE, FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE MILLAGE RENEWAL.

The proposed amendment to Chapter 8, Section 11 of the Royal Oak City Charter, if approved, would allow the City to renew the millage levy for a period not to exceed five (5) years of up to 3.975 mills, to defray the costs for police, fire and emergency medical services starting December 1, 2022.

The levy renewal, if approved, would defray the general expenses and liabilities of the city for police, fire, and emergency medical services only and will allow Royal Oak to maintain core services and staffing levels.

Shall the proposal be adopted?

Yes
No

Respectfully submitted,
Aaron Leal
City Attorney

Mark Liss
Assistant City Attorney