



## Approval of Road Millage Ballot Language

April 3, 2023

The Honorable Mayor Fournier and  
Members of the City Commission:

The current 2.5-mill road millage is scheduled to expire in 2024. Staff presented recommendations to renew the road millage for another 10-year period (2025-2034) at the [February 27, 2023](#) city commission meeting, and the city commission directed staff to present the proposed ballot language for approval.

The city attorney sent the draft language to the Michigan Attorney General's office and outside counsel for review, and their comments are incorporated in the revised language herein.

Over the last few years, the amount of each annual levy has decreased due to the impact of the Headlee Amendment. As a result, the original 2.5-mill levy is now 2.3026-mill for fiscal year 2023-24. In order to restore the original road millage amount of up to 2.5 mills, the ballot question needs to include the difference (0.1974mills).

The following resolution, prepared by the city attorney, is recommended for approval:

**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 city 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, 2022, 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.

- (d) In addition to the amount set forth in Subsections (a), (b) and (c) above, the City may, for the sole purpose of defraying the general expenses and liabilities of the City for maintaining, repairing and reconstructing roads and right-of-ways, raise by a general tax upon the assessed value of all real estate and personal property in the City, a millage of up to 2.5 mills for a period of not to exceed 10 years, said tax to be assessed and spread beginning on the first day of December, 2014, pursuant to the provisions of Chapter Eleven of this Charter.
- (e) In addition to the amount set in Subsections (a), (b), (c) and (d) above, the City may, for the sole purpose of defraying the general expenses and liabilities of the City for parks, forestry, recreation and playgrounds including animal shelter purposes raise by a general tax upon the assessed value of all real estate and personal property in the City, a millage of up to 0.7 mills for a period of not to exceed 5 years, 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.

If adopted by the electors:

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, 2022, 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.
- (d) In addition to the amount set forth in Subsections (a), (b) and (c) above, the City may, for the sole purpose of defraying the general expenses and liabilities of the City for maintaining, repairing and reconstructing roads and right-of-ways, raise by a general tax upon the assessed value of all real estate and personal property in the City, a millage of up to 2.5 mills for a period of not to exceed 10 years, said tax to be assessed and spread beginning on the first day of December, 2024, pursuant to the provisions of Chapter Eleven of this Charter.

(e) In addition to the amount set in Subsections (a), (b), (c) and (d) above, the City may, for the sole purpose of defraying the general expenses and liabilities of the City for parks, forestry, recreation and playgrounds including animal shelter purposes raise by a general tax upon the assessed value of all real estate and personal property in the City, a millage of up to 0.7 mills for a period of not to exceed 5 years, 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 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 city charter proposed for amendment or deletion and the proposed text of the city charter amendments and changes in accordance to Michigan law; and

**Be it finally resolved**, once approved by the governor, the city charter amendment proposal be placed before the electors at the General Election scheduled for Tuesday, November 7, 2023:

#### CHARTER PROPOSAL A

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO CHAPTER 8, SECTION 11(d) OF THE ROYAL OAK CITY CHARTER TO REESTABLISH THE 2.5 MILL ROAD MILLAGE PREVIOUSLY APPROVED BY THE ELECTORS THAT EXPIRES AS OF THE DECEMBER 2023 LEVY.

The proposed amendment to Chapter 8, Section 11(d) of the Royal Oak City Charter, if approved, would allow the City to levy a millage annually not to exceed 2.5 mills, of which 2.3026 is a renewal of the previously authorized millage and a restoration of the 0.1974 mills previously rolled back by the Headlee Amendment, for a period not to exceed ten (10) years beginning December 1, 2024, to defray the costs for maintaining, repairing and reconstructing roads and right-of-ways in the City of Royal Oak.

Shall the proposal be adopted?

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
No	<input type="checkbox"/>

Respectfully submitted,  
Holly J. Donoghue, P.E.  
City Engineer

Approved,



Paul J. Brake, ICMA-CM, CEcD  
City Manager