

Dear Royal Oak Voter:

Voters in Royal Oak should be aware of the upcoming election on Tuesday, November 7, 2023. This year's ballot will include two Charter proposals. Charter Proposal A seeks to renew the city's road millage. Charter Proposal B is a petition initiative on ranked choice voting.

Charter Proposal A – Road Millage:

Citizens of Royal Oak have funded the current road millage (2015-2024) each year on their tax bill, and this proposal would continue to fund road upgrades for another 10 years (2025-2034). This proposal would restore the full millage rate of 2.5 mills for 10 years to maintain, repair, and reconstruct Royal Oak streets and right-of-ways.

Funding from Charter Proposal A would focus mainly on major roads or those with the most traffic. It would also continue to provide a portion of funding for local roads and sidewalks. The millage renewal would allow the city to improve more than 33 miles of those wider and more heavily used major roads in 10 years. Without a road millage, this could take over 25 years. The preliminary schedule of work on these major roads is available online at the link below. The current road millage collected approximately \$7M this past year. If approved, the millage renewal is forecasted to collect \$8M in the December 2024 tax levy. Combining this with anticipated revenues from the State of Michigan would result in an estimated road improvement budget of \$10.5M per year.

Royal Oak property owners currently pay 2.3026 mills for the road millage, and the ballot proposal would reinstate the millage rate at 2.50 mills. You can calculate your estimated yearly contribution using the website or QR code below.

Proposal A Ballot Language

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 of not to exceed ten (10) years beginning December 1, 2024, to defray the costs of maintaining, repairing and reconstructing roads and right-of-ways in the City of Royal Oak.

Shall the proposal be adopted?

Learn more at: www.romi.gov/roadmillagerenewal



Charter Proposal B – Ranked Choice Voting (RCV):

Ballot Proposal B seeks to amend the Royal Oak City Charter to allow for the use of ranked choice voting (RCV) for the offices of the Mayor and City Commissioners. This Initiatory Petition was filed by Rank MI Vote and paid for with regulated funds by Rank MI Vote Ballot Question Committee. This petition seeks voters' approval to use a RCV method of tabulating votes in future elections of Mayor and City Commissioners, predicated upon:

- A change in State election law to allow for use of RCV;
- Development of voting machine equipment capable of implementing RCV;
- Availability and acquisition of such equipment by the City, and
- Approval of such equipment by the election commission.

State election laws presently do not permit the use of RCV. Although state law does not expressly prohibit RCV, several provisions of state law do conflict with RCV. Therefore, even if this proposal is approved by the voters, RCV would only become effective in the City after state election laws are amended and the other requirements provided by the proposal are met. Because the Initiatory Petitions originated with the voting public, neither the City nor the City Commission had any involvement or input into the development, substance, language, or any other aspect of the proposal.

Proposal B Ballot Language

Charter Proposal B

A proposed Royal Oak city charter amendment, to provide that the Mayor and City Commissioners are to be elected by a Ranked Choice Voting method when a RCV election process is allowed by law.

Shall this proposal be adopted?

The full text of the proposed charter amendment can be found at romi.gov/PropB.

Please remember to vote on the two Charter ballot proposals on November 7th.

With the approval of Proposal 22-2 last year, we now offer nine days of early in-person voting at the Mahany/Meininger Senior Center, 3500 Marias. Early voting is available from October 28 to November 5, from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm daily, except on November 2 when it's from noon to 8 pm. Don't miss this convenient opportunity for the upcoming election!

You can check your voter registration status; polling location; view your ballot; find early voting information and more at mvic.sos.state.mi.us

Sincerely,



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