

# Berrien County Michigan

November 6, 2018

**OFFICIAL**

## Proposal List

### **STATE PROPOSAL SECTION**

#### PROPOSAL

18-1

**A proposed initiated law to authorize and legalize possession, use and cultivation of marijuana products by individuals who are at least 21 years of age and older, and commercial sales of marijuana through state-licensed retailers**

This proposal would:

- Allow individuals 21 and older to purchase, possess and use marijuana and marijuana-infused edibles, and grow up to 12 marijuana plants for personal consumption.
- Impose a 10-ounce limit for marijuana kept at residences and require amounts over 2.5 ounces be secured in locked containers.
- Create a state licensing system for marijuana businesses and allow municipalities to ban or restrict them.
- Permit retail sales of marijuana and edibles subject to a 10% tax, dedicated to implementation costs, clinical trials, schools, roads, and municipalities where marijuana businesses are located.
- Change several current violations for crimes to civil infractions.

Should this proposal be adopted?

**PASSED**

18-2

**A proposed constitutional amendment to establish a commission of citizens with exclusive authority to adopt district boundaries for the Michigan Senate, Michigan House of Representatives and U.S. Congress, every 10 years**

This proposed constitutional amendment would:

- Create a commission of 13 registered voters randomly selected by the Secretary of State:
  - 4 each who self-identify as affiliated with the 2 major political parties; and
  - 5 who self-identify as unaffiliated with major political parties.

- Prohibit partisan office holders and candidates, their employees, certain relatives, and lobbyists from serving as commissioners.
  - Establish new redistricting criteria including geographically compact and contiguous districts of equal population, reflecting Michigan's diverse population and communities of interest. Districts shall not provide disproportionate advantage to political parties or candidates.
  - Require an appropriation of funds for commission operations and commissioner compensation.
- Should this proposal be adopted?

**PASSED**

**18-3**

**A proposal to authorize automatic and Election Day voter registration, no-reason absentee voting, and straight ticket voting; and add current legal requirements for military and overseas voting and post-election audits to the Michigan Constitution This proposed constitutional amendment would allow a United States citizen who is qualified to vote in Michigan to:**

- Become automatically registered to vote when applying for, updating or renewing a driver's license or state-issued personal identification card, unless the person declines.
  - Simultaneously register to vote with proof of residency and obtain a ballot during the 2-week period prior to an election, up to and including Election Day.
  - Obtain an absent voter ballot without providing a reason.
  - Cast a straight-ticket vote for all candidates of a particular political party when voting in a partisan general election.
- Should this proposal be adopted?

**PASSED**

## **CITY PROPOSAL SECTION**

### **CITY OF BUCHANAN DIAL-A-RIDE MILLAGE RENEWAL**

Shall the City of Buchanan continue to levy a total of one (1) mill on the taxable value of all taxable property in the City of Buchanan, which is equal to \$1.00 per each \$1,000 of taxable value, for the purpose of providing public transportation including the operation of the "Dial-A-Ride" Bus System, more properly known as the "Dial-A-Ride Transportation System", for a period of four (4) consecutive years, to be levied in 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022? The amount of revenue generated in the first year of the levy (2019) will be approximately \$86,920.00. The proposed millage is a renewal of a previously authorized millage.

**PASSED**

## **TOWNSHIP PROPOSAL SECTION**

### **BERRIEN TOWNSHIP**

## **ROAD MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR SPECIAL MILLAGE**

Shall the Township of Berrien levy Forty dollars (\$40) on each parcel of real property subject to taxation, for a period of four years commencing in 2019 through 2022 inclusive, for the purpose of funding maintenance, repair and replacement of roads within the Township? This levy will raise approximately \$97,500 in the first calendar year.

**PASSED**

## **GALIEN TOWNSHIP LIBRARY MILLAGE PROPOSITION**

In support of continued operation of the Galien Township Library, shall the limitation on the total amount of taxes which may be assessed against the taxable valuation of all property in the Township of Galien liable for taxation, including that land lying in the Village of Galien, be set at one mill (\$1.00 per each \$1,000 of taxable valuation, as equalized). The above said millage rate represents renewal of the permanently reduced millage of nine thousand seven hundred fifty-seven ten thousandths of one mill (\$.9757 cents per \$1,000.00 taxable valuation, as equalized) and a new millage of two hundred forty-three ten thousandths of one mill (\$.0243 cents per \$1,000.00 of taxable valuation, as equalized). The authorization to levy said millage is for a period of six (6) years, being the years of 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024. It is estimated that the amount of revenue to be generated from the total millage in the first year of levy (2019) will be approximately \$48,836 of which approximately \$1,186 is generated from the new (additional) millage.

**PASSED**

## **PIPESTONE TOWNSHIP ROAD MAINTENANCE, REPAIR AND REPLACEMENT**

Shall the Township of Pipestone levy an amount not to exceed sixty dollars (\$60) annually on each parcel of real property subject to taxation, for a period of four (4) years commencing in 2019 through 2022, inclusive, for the purpose of funding maintenance, repair and replacement of roads within the Township? This levy will raise approximately \$84,000 in the first calendar year.

**PASSED**

## **SODUS TOWNSHIP PROPOSAL TO RENEW AND INCREASE MILLAGE BACK TO TWO MILLS FOR ROAD IMPROVEMENTS IN SODUS TOWNSHIP**

Shall the previously voted millage for road improvements continue to levy the statutory rate limitations of 2 mills (\$2 per \$1,000 of taxable value), reduced by the required millage rollbacks, be increased and renewed at 2 mills (\$2 per \$1,000 of taxable value) on general ad valorem taxes within Sodus Township (Article IX, Sec. 6 of the Michigan Constitution ). This proposal is a renewal and increase back to original 2 mills, levied for four years, 2019 through 2022 inclusive, for the purpose of road improvements. The estimated revenue generated in the first year levy is \$143,988.00.

**PASSED**

## **WEESAW TOWNSHIP**

## **FIRE PROTECTION RENEWAL**

Shall the expired previous voted millage increase in the tax limitations imposed under Article IX, Section 6, of the Michigan Constitution in Weesaw Township, of 1 mill (\$1.00 per \$1,000 of taxable value), be renewed at the original voted 1 mill (\$1.00 per \$1,000 of taxable value) and levied for four years, 2019 through 2022 inclusive, for providing fire protection services, including but not limited to the maintenance, operation, housing and purchase of apparatus and equipment, raising an estimated \$85,874.27, in the first year the millage is levied?

**PASSED**

## **VILLAGE PROPOSAL SECTION**

### **VILLAGE OF GRAND BEACH CHARTER AMENDMENT SECTION 11**

Shall Section 11 of the Village Charter be amended to provide as follows:

The government of the village and all the powers thereof, except as otherwise provided in this charter or state law, shall be vested in a council of five members, who shall be citizens and shall have been registered voters in the village at least one year prior to the date of taking office. Starting in 1974, two members shall be elected for a two-year term and three members for a one-year term. Thereafter all members shall be elected for four-year terms. Council members, including the village president, shall be compensated at a rate which shall be set from time to time by resolution of the council, this compensation being the only remuneration which may be paid to the members of the council for the discharge of their official duties, except that reasonable expenses actually incurred in their service to the village may be paid when so ordered by the affirmative vote of no less than three members of the Council. No change in compensation for the village president or council members shall take effect during their current term in office?

**PASSED**

### **VILLAGE OF GRAND BEACH CHARTER AMENDMENT SECTION 19**

Shall Section 19 of the Village Charter be amended to provide as follows:

SECTION 19. The council may by ordinance create such additional offices as it may deem necessary in the conduct of the village's business, but no elective office shall be created by ordinance. Except as otherwise provided by this charter or state law, the duties, powers and compensation of Officials shall be fixed by ordinance; provided, that no official may be paid by fees. Except as otherwise provided by this charter, all fees paid to any office or officer under this charter, the ordinances of the village or state law, shall be accounted for and paid into the village treasury by the official receiving them. The council shall also establish a per-meeting fee for appointed planning commission members and zoning board of appeals members from time to time by resolution?

**PASSED**

### **VILLAGE OF MICHIANA MILLAGE RENEWAL PROPOSTION**

Shall the Village of Michiana, Berrien County, Michigan, impose an increase of one (1.0) mill, which is equal to \$1.00 per \$1,000.00 of taxable valuation of real and personal property subject to taxation? Said millage would be an extra voted millage to provide funds for the general operations of the Village, and if approved by electors of the Village of Michiana, will be levied for a period of five (5) years, 2019-2023, inclusive. Based on the current valuation, it is estimated that the levy will generate approximately \$73,942 in the first year of the levy.

**PASSED**

## **SCHOOL PROPOSALS**

### **BERRIEN SPRINGS PUBLIC SCHOOLS BONDING PROPOSAL**

Shall Berrien Springs Public Schools, Berrien County, Michigan, borrow the sum of not to exceed Nineteen Million Seven Hundred Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$19,730,000) and issue its general obligation unlimited tax bonds therefor, for the purpose of:

erecting, furnishing and equipping a performing arts center and indoor athletic center as an addition to the high school, and acquiring, installing and equipping or re-equipping such addition for instructional technology; and preparing, developing and improving the site?

The following is for informational purposes only:

The estimated millage that will be levied for the proposed bonds in 2019 is 3.96 mills (\$3.96 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation) for a 2.30 mills net increase over the prior year's levy. The maximum number of years the bonds may be outstanding, exclusive of any refunding, is twenty (20) years. The estimated simple average annual millage anticipated to be required to retire this bond debt is 3.56 mills (\$3.56 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation).

The school district does not expect to borrow from the State to pay debt service on the bonds. The total amount of qualified bonds currently outstanding is \$0.00. The total amount of qualified loans currently outstanding is \$0.00. The estimated computed millage rate may change based on changes in certain circumstances.

(Pursuant to State law, expenditure of bond proceeds must be audited, and the proceeds cannot be used for repair or maintenance costs, teacher, administrator or employee salaries, or other operating expenses.)

**PASSED**

### **COLOMA COMMUNITY SCHOOLS OPERATING MILLAGE PROPOSAL**

This proposal will allow the school district to levy the statutory rate of not to exceed 18 mills on all property, except principal residence and other property exempted by law, required for the school district to receive its full revenue per pupil foundation allowance and restores millage lost as a result of the reduction required by the "Headlee" amendment to the Michigan Constitution of 1963.

Shall the currently authorized millage rate limitation on the amount of taxes which may be assessed against all property, except principal residence and other property exempted by law, in Coloma Community Schools, Berrien and Van Buren Counties, Michigan, be renewed by 17.7863 mills (\$17.7863 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation) for a period of 4 years, 2019 to 2022, inclusive, and also be increased by .5 mill (\$0.50 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation) for a period of 5 years, 2018 to 2022, inclusive, to provide funds for operating purposes; the estimate of the revenue the school district will collect if the millage is approved and .2137 mill of the additional .5 mill is levied in 2018 is approximately \$40,980 (this is a renewal of millage that will expire with the 2018 levy and a restoration of millage lost as a result of a reduction required by the "Headlee" amendment to the Michigan Constitution of 1963)?

**PASSED**

### **RIVER VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT SINKING FUND MILLAGE PROPOSAL**

Shall the limitation on the amount of taxes which may be assessed against all property in River Valley School District, Berrien County, Michigan, be increased by and the board of education be authorized to levy not to exceed .75 mill (\$0.75 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation) for a period of 5 years, 2020 to 2024, inclusive, to create a sinking fund for the construction or repair of school buildings, for school security improvements, for the acquisition or upgrading of technology and all other purposes authorized by law; the estimate of the revenue the school district will collect if the millage is approved and levied in 2020 is approximately \$590,760?

**PASSED**

## **LIBRARY PROPOSALS**

### **Dowagiac District Library Library Millage Proposal**

Shall the Dowagiac District Library, Counties of Cass, Berrien and Van Buren, Michigan, be authorized to levy a new additional millage in an amount not to exceed 1.0 mill (\$1.00 on each \$1,000 of taxable value) against all taxable property within the Dowagiac District Library district for a period of twenty (20) years, 2018 to 2037, inclusive, for the purpose of providing funds for all district library purposes authorized by law, including expanding, renovating, furnishing and equipping the library building and making related improvements? The estimate of the revenue the Dowagiac District Library will collect if the millage is approved and levied by the Dowagiac District Library in the first year (2018) is approximately \$523,000.

**PASSED**