

FIRE PROTECTION/ AMBULANCE SERVICES MILLAGE PROPOSAL

WHAT IS THE BALLOT PROPOSAL LANGUAGE?

FIRE PROTECTION/ AMBULANCE SERVICES MILLAGE PROPOSAL

Shall Sodus Township levy one (1) mill (\$1.00 per \$1,000.00 of taxable value on real and personal property), subject to the tax limitation imposed under Article IX, Sec. 6 of the Michigan Constitution, for a period of four (4) years, 2024 through 2027 inclusive, for the purpose of providing operation funds for Sodus Township to provide fire protection/ ambulance services including ambulance services and the purchase, maintenance, and operation of vehicles, apparatus, equipment, and/or personnel in support of emergency services, and shall the Township levy such millage?

It is estimated that the revenue collected by Sodus Township as a result of this proposal will be \$90,000.00 in the first year the millage is levied based on the most recent taxable value

_____ YES

_____ NO



Sodus Twp. Fire Truck

Vote In Person: Tuesday, August 6th, 2024
Polls open at 7:00 a.m. & close at 8:00 p.m.
Precinct Located: Sodus Township Hall 4056 King Dr.
Sodus, MI 49126

Early Voting: Begins July 27th, 2024 – Aug. 4th, 2024
Polls open: vary
Location: Lake Michigan College Todd Center 2785 E.
Napier Ave. Benton Harbor, MI 49022

See our website for further information

CONTACT US

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SODUS TOWNSHIP

P.O. Box 176
4056 King Drive
Sodus, MI 49126



FIRE PROTECTION/ AMBULANCE SERVICES MILLAGE PROPOSAL

**VOTE -
AUGUST 6TH**

WHY DOES THE TOWNSHIP NEED ADDITIONAL FUNDING?

HERE ARE JUST A FEW REASONS:

- The current fire millage and the proposed renewal fire millage barely fund the part-time fire department, including repairs and/or replacement of equipment, and the day to day operations and/or personnel. Newer fire vehicle replacements to the fleet are expenses having to be paid from the general fund as well as any shortfalls the millage does not cover. Grants have been helpful in the past few years, but they have a sunset date and future available funding is uncertain.
- Ambulance Services is a contracted service paid from the general fund. Sodus Township has not experienced significant increases and the general fund has not been burdened. However, due to increased rates from inflation and the addition of municipalities to the service provider, the general fund will be additionally burdened.
- The additional millage will cover the shortfalls from the underfunded fire millage and cover the additional expense of ambulance services, freeing monies in the general fund.
- **THIS IS NOT TO FUND LAW ENFORCEMENT.** Monies generated from this millage will be used only for fire and ambulance related services.

WHAT WILL IT COST RESIDENTS?

Taxable Value on Real and Personal Property	Current/Proposed Renewal Fire Millage (\$1.00 per \$1,000.00 of taxable value on real and personal property)	Proposed Fire Protection/Ambulance Services Millage (\$1.00 per \$1,000.00 of taxable value on real and personal property)	Total <small>*These are estimates and does not include state increases</small>
\$300,000	\$300	\$300	\$600
\$250,000	\$250	\$250	\$500
\$200,000	\$200	\$200	\$400
\$150,000	\$150	\$150	\$300
\$100,000	\$100	\$100	\$200
\$75,000	\$75	\$75	\$150

- At the end of fiscal year 2023, the Fire Fund, which is funded by the current millage, had a Fund Balance of \$2114. This left no margin for error or emergencies. If a structure fire had occurred, funds to cover payroll, maintenance or replacement of equipment would have had to be paid from the general fund. Thankfully, that did not happen!
- “Robbing Peter to Pay Paul” is not a good financial practice and reflects on the annual audit. Eventually the practice will affect the ability to receive grants.



Scene of tragic fire on 07/28/18 at Cosmo Extended Stay Motel, Sodus Twp.

SODUS FIRE DEPARTMENT MISSION STATEMENT

"We, the members of the Sodus Township Fire Department, are committed to the safety and welfare of our community and the public by preserving life, protecting property and conserving the environment."

Our fire department and ambulance service personnel are ready to continue to serve the residents of Sodus Twp.

Will you, the residents support them?

Vote - August 6th