

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## ***Why does the College have a proposal on the November 6 ballot?***

The College is currently operating with a millage rate that was approved by the community more than 30 years ago. All community colleges are funded through a combination of local property tax, tuition, and appropriations from the State of Michigan. Several economic factors have created a shortfall in annual funding for Schoolcraft College. The College is currently collecting about the same amount of property tax as it did 12 years ago.



## ***What has Schoolcraft College done to offset this lower revenue situation?***

Schoolcraft College has implemented both cost cutting and revenue raising programs, including:

- ◆ Partnerships with Wayne State University and other four-year universities to generate additional revenue.
- ◆ On-campus development projects financed by private investments that will result in alternative revenue in the future.
- ◆ A 2017 buy-out of faculty and staff, which generated close to \$1.6 million in annual savings.
- ◆ Buy-outs in 2010 and 2013, and a salary freeze from 2008–2012.
- ◆ Deferred maintenance has saved \$2 to \$3 million per fiscal year since 2013.

Even with these numerous cost-cutting and alternative revenue generating initiatives, the College operated with a \$6 million deficit in fiscal year 2016 and a \$7.3 million loss in 2017. We predict that this deficit will continue to grow in 2018.

## ***What exactly is Schoolcraft College requesting?***

The College is asking permission to restore the full amount of millage approved back in 1986.

## ***If approved, what will this cost the average homeowner?***

For a home valued at \$200,000, the cost would be an increase of about \$48 annually for the next 10 years, or about 13 cents a day.

**continued** 



**PRIDE.  
CHALLENGE.  
ACHIEVEMENT.**



**Schoolcraft  
College**

## ***What happens if the voters don't approve this?***

Schoolcraft College will need to cut expenditures and raise money by other means, which would include:

- ◆ An increase in tuition and fees.
- ◆ A decrease in services for students.
- ◆ Elimination of community programs that are currently free or heavily subsidized.
- ◆ Deterioration of the physical appearance of the college.

## ***If approved, what will the College do with the money and how does it benefit students and the community?***

- ◆ Expand its investment in career and technical education programs for in-demand careers, including manufacturing and healthcare. This will meet the needs of students who need jobs and local employers who need qualified employees.
- ◆ Continue to keep tuition low, thereby reducing the number of loans students need for college.
- ◆ Enhance its rigorous programs and student services that have made it the top community college in Michigan for combined graduation and transfer to four-year college or university rates. This is only possible from an organization that is funded adequately.
- ◆ Maintain the Business Development Center (BDC). Last year alone, the BDC assisted 700 local companies in growing their businesses by helping them develop their workforce, explore opportunities for growth, research and analyze the market, or evaluate financial or legal issues. Beyond offering a variety of seminars and courses for small businesses, the BDC also provides free government contracting assistance to business firms in marketing products and services to the federal, state and local governments through its Procurement Technical Assistance Center (PTAC).

## ***When is the election?***

Tuesday, November 6, 2018. Polls are open from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m. To vote in the November 6 election, you must be a U.S. citizen, at least 18 years of age by Election Day, a resident of Michigan and the Schoolcraft College district, and registered to vote.

The College district includes residents in the Clarenceville, Garden City, Livonia, Northville and Plymouth–Canton public school districts. Please visit your city or township clerk or visit any Secretary of State office to register to vote. You must be registered 30 days prior to an election to be eligible to vote. The official “last day to register” for the Nov. 6 election is Monday, October 8, 2018. You can also register to vote, request an absentee ballot or update an address online with TurboVote at [www.schoolcraft.turbovote.org](http://www.schoolcraft.turbovote.org).

## ***Where and how do I vote?***

At your regular polling location or via absentee ballot. The voting location is printed on your voter registration card provided by the Secretary of State. If you're unsure of your precinct's voting location, please contact your city or township. Absentee ballots will be available from local clerks no later than September 22, 2018.

## ***Where do I get more information?***

Go to [www.schoolcraft.edu/ballot](http://www.schoolcraft.edu/ballot).