

**Millage Request:** This August, Green Oak Township will ask for an increase in the base millage to support the General Fund. This request is the first in well over 30 years. During this time the population of the Township has nearly doubled and is predicted to be the most populated township in Livingston County by 2030. The Township has managed its finances well, however, with the lack of support from the State we find it necessary to ask.

Since Proposition 2 was passed, the Elections department has experienced a budget increase exceeding \$300,000 to support the passage of Proposition 2. Unfortunately, the election laws passed with little or no support from the State. With election security at the forefront of everyone's concerns, Green Oak Township has already taken steps to protect your right to vote and the integrity of the vote. Election security is more than just the vote itself, it is also protecting the voters, election workers and voting locations. Planning with local, county, state and federal agencies, Green Oak Township stands ready to conduct safe and secure elections.

Green Oak Township's population is growing; the Clerk's department has had to add two additional precincts to accommodate this growth. Additionally, early voting for nine days prior to each election has added to the financial outlay because we chose to keep early voting local rather than at the County location west of Howell.

The Green Oak Township Board has made the decision to support the Police and Fire Departments in long term capital purchases. This millage request incorporates that support. This will ensure our departments have the capital funding, with Board support necessary to provide the level of service our residents have come to expect.

**Police Millage Renewal:** With the fastest growing population in Livingston County, the Green Oak Police Department must increase its staffing to provide the highest level of service that our citizens expect. A recent staffing study revealed that the department is 6 officers short with the current call volume and population. Recruitment, hiring, and retention is at a critical point throughout the country with a limited number of qualified candidates and the fact that it takes, on average, 4 months to hire just one officer puts us behind before we even begin.

With more people, means more responses, and the demand for service calls increase in frequency and complexity each day. These changes in criminal behavior have necessitated the purchase of new equipment and technology such as drones, analytic software, multi-agency records management systems, and all the training that is needed to operate them. We have also added body worn cameras which have been instrumental in prosecuting cases but come at a cost to manage and respond to Freedom on Information requests.

With more people, means more traffic. The Green Oak Township Police Department knows this is a huge concern for its citizens and has made it a priority for the officers if they are not assigned to a call for service. A millage increase will allow us to hire more officers and create a dedicated traffic enforcement team to deal with this problem head on.

With more officers, means more training. The Green Oak Township Police Department has initiated the accreditation process, which prioritizes ensuring our policies and procedures are up to date, increasing our effectiveness and efficiency, and minimizing liability. The accreditation program requires us to increase our yearly training in several areas for each officer to meet the standard, which is already underway. To continue towards the accreditation certification, we will need to have proven, in writing, that we are in compliance with each standard, which demands both time and manpower.

The Green Oak Township Police Department is dedicated to providing excellent service to its residents and visitors alike, aiming to foster a strong sense of safety and well-being for everyone in our community, whether they live here or are just visiting.

**Fire Millage Renewal:** This request seeks a renewal of the originally approved 1.77 mills of the current Fire Department millage. This renewal is necessary to provide adequate fire department staffing, training, and equipment and to maintain the Fire Departments operations and current level of service. The Fire Department currently has two stations staffed with firefighters 24/7/365 protecting the Township and its citizens and ready to respond to fire, medical, and other emergency situations.