

VOTE AUGUST 7th



GARDEN CITY VOTERS WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO VOTE ON A BOND REFERENDUM TO REPAIR CITY ROADS

The condition of Garden City's roads is a problem the City has been attempting to address for several years now. Garden City's Mayor, Council, and City Administration have listened closely to residents and have considered all of the options. On August 7th, Garden City residents will have the opportunity to vote on a bonded roads millage that would allow the City to begin addressing Garden City's most needy roads. The proposal calls for a 5 year, \$15 million dollar bond that would be issued to improve a portion of the City's roads. This would give the City approximately \$3 million per year for 5 years to spend toward road improvements (*compared to the \$700,000 that the City currently spends from the State Gas Tax*). The millage rate would be an average of 6.2 mills over 5 years, costing the average homeowner \$232 in the first year, but in years 2-5 the average homeowner will only pay \$104 more in taxes than they are paying now*.

Last November's Bond Referendum to fix the City roads failed by only 26 "yes" votes. That bond would have generated nearly \$50 million dollars over 20 years to address a large portion of the City's roads, but that plan would also have resulted in the City paying \$25 million dollars in interest. This plan would address the City's roads by generating \$15 Million over 5 years - but would only cost \$1.8 million dollars in interest - allowing a much higher percentage of the money raised to go directly to road repair and reconstruction.

GARDEN CITY STREET IMPROVEMENT BOND PROPOSAL

Shall the City of Garden City, County of Wayne, Michigan, borrow the principal sum of not to exceed Fifteen Million Dollars (\$15,000,000) and issue its general obligation unlimited tax bonds, in one or more series, payable in not to exceed five (5) years from the date of issuance of each series, for the purpose of paying the cost to improve, replace, resurface, and reconstruct streets in the City, including sidewalk improvements, drainage improvements, and water and sewer improvements, together with necessary rights-of-way, appurtenances and attachments thereto?

Yes
No

The estimated millage to be levied in 2019 is 6.2490 mills (\$6.2490 per \$1,000 of taxable value) and the estimated simple average annual millage rate required to retire the bonds is 6.2464 mills (\$6.2464 per \$1,000 of taxable value).



***Why would my taxes go up an average of \$232 in the first year from where they are now, but only \$104 in the second, third, fourth and fifth year?**

As you are aware, the residents of Garden City are currently paying a judgment bond from a lawsuit. The final levy to pay for that bond is July, 2019. The average homeowner is paying \$128 per year toward that lawsuit, so after the final payment from that bond, the average homeowner will only pay \$104 more per year in new money than they are now, allowing the City to finally be able to address Garden City's worst roads.

Why does the City need additional funds to repair and reconstruct roads? Why don't my taxes cover the cost?

Like many cities, Gasoline Tax revenue received from the State is the sole source of funds used for road maintenance and repair projects. The City does not have money in the General Operating Fund to subsidize road work. Garden City receives about \$2.3 million dollars a year from the State Gas Tax, but after expenses such as snow plowing, road salt, basic road repairs, joint and crack sealing, and more, only around \$700,000 is left per year for road reconstruction. Currently, it costs about \$1 million dollars to replace a half mile of concrete road with curbs, while asphalt roads cost a little less. The City has over 100 miles of roads.

Why doesn't the City just continue to assess homeowners on streets that get reconstructed?

Homeowners who paid previous street assessments paid less than 5% of the cost of the road in front of their home; so in reality, residents on other streets are already subsidizing the cost of the roads that were assessed. At the current rate, not enough roads will get reconstructed to make any impact, while other roads will continue to deteriorate. The condition of Garden City's roads is a shared problem. Good roads benefit the entire community. It's very difficult to get anywhere in Garden City without encountering a road in very poor condition. Improved roads not only create a better driving experience around our community, but it also raises property values and improves the image of our City.

How will I know how my money is being used?

The funds raised from this millage can only be used to reconstruct and repair Garden City's neighborhood roads. This project is for Garden City Streets only. Ford Road, Middlebelt Road, Merriman Road, Warren Road, Cherry Hill Road, Inkster Road and Venoy Road are Wayne County and State of Michigan roads which the City has no authority over. Over the next month, a map and a list of the first phase of roads to be reconstructed will be available. If the proposal passes, a Webpage will be set-up to account for all revenue generated and all expenses from the Bond Issue, as well as the upcoming roads to be worked on next.

Keep in touch with us

The City recognizes that this is a difficult decision for voters. We encourage residents to become informed on this topic. Additional information will be available soon on the City's Website at www.gardencitymi.org, on our Facebook page @ [CityofGardenCityMI](https://www.facebook.com/CityofGardenCityMI), and on GCTV. The City plans to hold a number of neighborhood meetings about the Bond Issue and that schedule will be made available through these sources. The most important thing is that residents vote on Tuesday, August 7, 2018. The polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Watch for upcoming meetings about the August 7th Roads vote!