



## Pittsfield Charter Township

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### Office of the Supervisor

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#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 22, 2021

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#### Join us at One of Our Upcoming Public Safety Millage Forums

Pittsfield Township, MI (September 22, 2021): The township will host a series of public forums to provide information, answer questions, and listen to your feedback regarding the Public Safety Millage Request that will appear on the November 2, 2021 ballot. Three forums will be offered in-person and via Zoom. Each venue will have limited capacity to allow for social distancing and masks are required at all in-person meetings.

Each of the public forums will begin at 6:30 PM:

- September 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Community Center (701 W. Ellsworth Rd)
- October 7<sup>th</sup> at Carpenter Elementary School (4250 Central Blvd)
- October 14<sup>th</sup> at Harvest Elementary School (1155 Campus Parkway)
- October 21<sup>st</sup> Virtual via Zoom

Pittsfield Township, with the third highest population, has one of the lowest tax rates (6.5 mills) in Washtenaw County while being one of only two full-service municipalities providing water, sewer, rubbish, parks and recreation, public safety (police and fire), assessing, and building services.

Township taxes have remained unchanged since November 2009 with the exception of the increase in the 1.95 Public Safety Millage approved by voters in 2011, which is set to expire this year. Instead of a renewal, the Township is requesting approval of a 1 mill increase (for a total of 2.95 mills for public safety) to address the following factors:

1. Back in 2011, the Township didn't know that the recovery from the Great Recession would take nearly an entire decade. In other words, Pittsfield Township did not return to its pre-recession taxable value until 2017 due to Headlee and Proposal A even though our assessed values increased significantly because of the development activity in our community.
2. Due to this slow economic recovery, the Township has operated – over the past decade – within a very constrained fiscal framework. This has required depleting fund reserves, eliminating and reducing the number of public safety personnel, relying more heavily on transfers from the general fund, and applying for grant funds.
3. The 1 mill increase for the next five years will allow Pittsfield to hire more public safety personnel to meet the dual goals of serving a higher population base and doing so within the context of equity and social justice.

4. The request is for 5 years because the current countywide public safety & mental health millage expires in 2026 (5 years). By requesting a 5-year Township public safety millage, we will be able to align with the county's timeline so all future taxes – Township and other – are imposed in context of each other and no one feels like they are being double-taxed for the same service.

Visit the Township website at [www.pittsfield-mi.gov/dpsmillage](http://www.pittsfield-mi.gov/dpsmillage) to get more information, review frequently asked questions, and obtain the registration link if you would like to attend the virtual forum.

For more details and information, please visit: [www.pittsfield-mi.gov/dpsmillage](http://www.pittsfield-mi.gov/dpsmillage)

If you have any questions, please contact [supervisor@pittsfield-mi.gov](mailto:supervisor@pittsfield-mi.gov); 734.822.3135

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