



Questions & Answers

1. Is this a new tax, or a renewal of an existing tax? Don't we already have a sinking fund millage?

This bond renews (does not increase) taxes. However, the State recently expanded the uses of sinking funds, to include technology and building security. Since we want to use the existing millage for these new uses, the district can't formally call the millage a "renewal," although it is one--not an increase.

2. What types of projects were funded by the existing sinking fund, and what is being funded by this one?

Sinking funds have always been used for building improvements like necessary repairs, roofs, HVAC systems, flooring, boilers, etc. This fund will be similar, but with a focus on three areas: instructional technology and security, energy and operational efficiency, and health and safety.

3. Why do we need a sinking fund if we recently passed a large bond? Isn't the bond covering those projects?

While the bond covered big new projects, like the new Hillside, an expansion at the high school and a major renovation at Amerman, less-visible maintenance and security projects described above were not covered. The district completes a detailed construction plan, and the bond and sinking fund each cover different needs.

4. How much of our sinking fund tax dollars stay in Northville?

100%

5. Does the tax rate under the new sinking fund change?

No. In fact, our tax rate will fall over time—even with this new bond voted in. Originally at 1 mill, it is now at 0.95 mills and will decline over time.

6. My taxes go up every year. What does Northville do with all my additional tax dollars?

The vast majority of your education dollars go to Lansing, and are distributed to other districts around the State on a per pupil basis. Northville does not get what are called "hold harmless" funds, so we get less money per pupil than Novi, Farmington, Ann Arbor, Birmingham, Bloomfield and Grosse Pointe. This is a vestige of Proposal A, passed in 1994. So while your taxes may increase, Northville gets very little of that additional money. This millage, by comparison, stays entirely in Northville.

7. When is the election, and how is your group of community leaders voting?

The election is March 10, 2020. We unanimously support this millage, to ensure we are not doing the same important work with less money. Keeping our capital assets in good condition is a prudent investment in our community.