

FAQ - 2025 Street Millage Request

For more information, or to suggest questions for this list, please contact us at:

 (810) 225-8022

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What will the ballot proposal look like?

Should the City of Brighton be authorized to levy a tax of 2.5 mills (\$2.50 per \$1,000 of taxable value) for 10 years, from 2026 to 2035, to fund the improvement, replacement, resurfacing, reconstruction, and construction of public streets, sidewalks, curbs, drainage systems, and necessary rights-of-way upgrades for the City of Brighton? This tax is part of a partial restoration of the original 20-mill Charter millage, which was reduced to 15.1819 mills due to the Headlee Amendment (MCL 211.34) after the current street improvement millage expires in 2025. The 2.5 mills represents a renewal of a 2.5-mill tax approved by voters in 2019, which has been reduced to 2.4053 mills due to the Headlee Amendment and new additional millage of 0.0947 mills. The proposal is expected to generate about \$1,650,500 when first levied in July 2026.

How would the funds from the new millage be prioritized?

Funds would be used for public streets, curbs, gutters, and sidewalks. Street selection is based on:

- **Traffic Counts** – Prioritizing high-use roads.
- **Location** – Distributing projects evenly across the city, with a focus on interior streets first to prevent damage to newly repaired streets.
- **Complexity of Work** – Coordinating with water, sewer, and drainage projects for efficiency.

This process includes discussion by City Council at public meetings and ensures fairness, value, and long-term infrastructure strength.

How does the Headlee Override Millage affect my tax bill?

If approved, beginning in **Summer 2026**, a **2.5 mill** levy would appear on your tax bill, replacing the **2.4053 mills** that expired after Summer 2025.

To estimate your cost:

- **Annual cost:** $(\text{Taxable Value} \div 1,000) \times 2.5$
- **Increase from 2025:** $(\text{Taxable Value} \div 1,000) \times 0.0947$

✦ For a home with a taxable value of **\$200,000**, the increase from 2025 is about **\$18.94/year** or **\$1.58/month**.

■ What is a “mill”?

A **mill** is equal to **\$1 per \$1,000** of taxable property value. Taxable value is the lesser of 50% of the true cash value or the capped value of your home.

For example:

- **1 mill** on a \$200,000 taxable value = **\$200/year** or **\$16.67/month**.
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■ Why do we need a street millage?

Due to the **Headlee Rollback**, as property values rise, tax rates are reduced, limiting the City’s ability to keep up with inflation and rising costs. This has made it harder to maintain services without reducing quality or requesting millage resets.

■ Why 2.5 mills?

Voters approved a **2.5-mill** street millage in **2019**, which was reduced to **2.4053 mills** due to Headlee and has now expired.

The 2025 proposal:

- **Renews the 2.4053 mills**
- **Adds 0.0947 mills**
- **Total: 2.5 mills for 10 years**

✦ The estimated increase for a \$200,000 home: **\$18.94/year** or **\$1.58/month**.

■ What happens if the millage is not approved?

Without this millage, the City won't be able to continue street improvements. This will:

- Accelerate road deterioration
- Increase future repair costs
- Risk loss of matching grant opportunities

■ Is the City doing anything to control spending?

Yes! The City:

- Encourages innovation and cost-saving practices
- Applies for grants whenever possible
- Prioritizes efficiency and long-term planning

■ What are the Headlee Amendment, Proposal A, Headlee Override, and Rollback?

These Michigan laws control how property taxes are assessed and how much revenue cities can collect.

Learn more from MSU Extension:

- **Headlee Amendment:** [What is the Headlee Amendment?](#)
- **Proposal A:** [Proposal A Overview](#)
- **Headlee Override:** [Headlee Override Explained](#)
- **Headlee Rollback:** [Legislative Summary](#)

■ Why do cities like Brighton need Headlee overrides?

Because of Headlee Rollbacks, cities collect **less tax revenue** even when **property values increase**.

- From 2008–2013, Brighton saw major value losses.

- Recovery began in 2017, but Headlee limited revenue growth.
- It took until **2020** for taxable values to return to **2010 levels**.
- Inflation-capped growth (1.67% average) slowed budget recovery.

For more: www.savemicity.org


If passed, when would another override be needed?

This millage would expire in **10 years**, giving voters another opportunity to weigh in.

Headlee rollbacks could reduce revenue over time. If funding doesn't keep up with inflation there may be a need for continued investment in street infrastructure. These would be addressed as part of the **annual budget cycle**.

Who can I contact with questions?

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