

July 18, 2018

Letter to the Editor:

Marshall Township voters will pass judgment on a \$5.915 million bond issue at the August 7th Primary Election. Proceeds from the bonds will pay for the township's 50% share of an \$11,549,522 local road improvement project. The county road department will contribute the other 50%. Most of the township's 42.58 miles of local roads will be repaved, if the proposal is approved, in the 2019 and 2020 construction seasons.

Your township Board placed this issue on the ballot after becoming convinced that there is no other available realistic alternative which would result in the improvement needed for our local roads. We had hoped that the legislature would recognize that local roads need a large infusion of transportation funding after years of declining funding and increased maintenance costs; however, the 2015 legislation did nothing to update laws limiting how much the county can spend on local roads. While Senator Nofs and Representative Maturen supported more funding for local roads, the package ultimately passed barely restored funding lost over the past decade.

Approval of the Marshall Township Road Improvement Bond Proposal August 7th will permit the township to benefit from a 50-50 match program with the county instead of the usual 30% county, 70% match. This results in over \$2.3 million of the total improvement cost being shifted from local property tax payers to the county which will pay its share from state transportation funding (fuel taxes and vehicle registration fees.)

While we share the view that local road improvements and maintenance should be paid entirely from dedicated transportation funds, Michigan law does not provide such an option and efforts to get the law changed over the past 50 years have failed. In the meantime, what little funds we have available at the township government level to meet the required local road match with the county simply comes nowhere near the amount needed to make our roads safer and smoother to travel and to properly maintain them.

Approval of the Marshall Township Road Improvement Bond issue August 7th will cost property taxpayers an average of \$3.39 per \$1,000 of taxable property value over 15 years. We think this is a good investment to provide safer and smoother roads in our township. Please join us in voting YES for the Marshall Township Road Improvement Bond Proposal.



David Bosserd, Township Supervisor



Susan George, Township Clerk



Jeffrey Albaugh, Township Treasurer



Ron Quinn, Township Trustee



Robert Lyng, Township Trustee